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AGAWAM

Advertiser News

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A TURLEY PUBLICATION

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Gaming Commission finds MGM suitable

Company filed
'Phase II' application
this week

By Douglas Farmer
Staff Writer

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Gaming Commission gave MGM Resorts International an early

Christmas present last week, unanimously finding the entertainment giant suitable to operate a casino in Massachusetts, after a lengthy review of the company's legal and financial practices. MGM hopes to build an \$800 million resort casino on 14.5 acres between Union and State streets and Columbus Avenue and Main Street in Springfield.

And this week, MGM announced through a press release

that it had formally filed its "Phase II," site-specific application for the sole casino license available in Western Massachusetts. After its proposed host community agreement passed muster with Springfield voters early last summer, the company began negotiating with Agawam and other surrounding communities for mitigation of impacts ranging from traffic to stress on other infrastructure; to date, the

company has signed agreements with Ludlow, Agawam, Wilbraham, East Longmeadow and Chicopee. Negotiations have proven more complex with officials in Longmeadow, and the two parties could ultimately have to appear before an arbitrator appointed by the gaming commission.

"We have worked hard to develop-

Please see MGM, page 6

SWAPPING HOOPS FOR A KETTLE



Turley Publications courtesy photos

The Agawam High School girls' varsity basketball team volunteered to ring bells for the Salvation Army during the holiday season. Pictured (from left) are Brittany Busco, Allison Wheeler, Rebecca Uschmann, Margaret Frawley, Christie Mirski, Meghan D'Amours, Jessica Lingenberg and Samantha Charette. (Inset) Captains Margaret Frawley and Danielle Stratton.



Procurement position gains town support

By Jennifer Wroblewski
Staff Writer

Department heads within the town of Agawam have lent support to Mayor Richard A. Cohen's request to create a "procurement department" with a single employee to act as the town's chief procurement officer.

According to a Dec. 12 memorandum from Agawam Solicitor Vincent Gioscia, the creation of a procurement department would be

an asset to the town.

"At this time, procurement and bidding is decentralized with each department heading their own program," Gioscia wrote. "While this system works in smaller settings, our town has reached a point where all procurement oversight, bidding and contracting work should be centralized under a chief procurement officer."

That individual would be responsible for overseeing all current purchasing by departments

and ensuring compliance with state and local rules as well as identifying cost savings and consolidation, said Gioscia. The chief procurement officer would also

be responsible for conducting the town's bidding and contracting

work that is currently dispersed among relevant department heads.

"Bid award contracts would become more insulated to contests and less likely to open the town to liability for failing to address some of the more obscure, but still binding, procurement rules," he said.

Town Auditor Cheryl St. John was one of the first department heads to offer support of the position. In an interoffice memorandum dated Dec. 5, St. John wrote

Please see TOWN HALL, page 3

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Gillis appointed police chief

AGAWAM — Mayor Richard A. Cohen announced at presstime that Agawam Police Lt. Eric P. Gillis has been appointed the next chief of police of Agawam. He was chosen following interviews by and a unanimous recommendation of the selection committee.

He will begin his new position Jan. 3 with the retirement of Chief Robert P. Campbell, who has dedicated over 40 years of service to the community. Gillis has over 16 years as an officer and lieutenant with the Agawam Police Department.

"As we wish Chief Campbell best wishes and much gratitude for his service, we welcome Eric P. Gillis as our new chief of police," said Cohen.

High-tech tools transforming schools

By Mike Lydick
Turley Publications Correspondent

A gawam schools continue to demonstrate a commitment to delivering high quality education to students by applying more cutting edge technology in 2014.

These technological changes are preparing Agawam administrators, teachers, and students for several new and ongoing state mandated programs – from how teachers and administrators are evaluated to assessing how students are learning. Superintendent William Sapelli said technology is critical to almost everything the district is doing to meet its educational goals.

During the summer the district's wireless infrastructure was expanded to all schools. More wireless access points are being added to improve Wi-Fi signals. Expanding this infrastructure was of para-

Please see HIGH-TECH, page 15

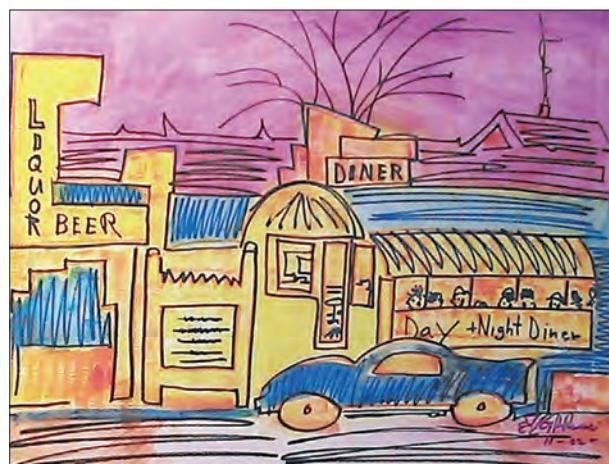
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Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries. One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$50, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to:

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Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Artist Glen A. Rossi will demonstrate bright lines art during the Jan. 8 Agawam Community Artists and Artisans meeting.

ACAA to host Glen A. Rossi

Agawam Community Artists and Artisans (ACAA) will hold a meeting and art demonstration by Glen A. Rossi, Wednesday, Jan. 8 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at Agawam Public Library, 750 Cooper St.

The meeting is free to the public.

Rossi will provide a bright lines art demonstration to illustrate how to catch the excitement of the moment by moving swiftly across the page-panel or canvas with bright colorful lines. His ability to blend colors gives his felt pen drawings a three-dimensional aspect. Mediums used include oil, water mixable oil, watercolor; acrylics, felt markers and woodcarvings.

DOE IN THE SNOW



Turley Publications courtesy photo

Feeding Hills photographer Randy Ennis recently sent in this image he snapped of a doe in his yard after snowfall. Do you have your own wildlife photo to share with our readers? Send it to *Agawam Advertiser News* Editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.

The People's Choice: St. David's Episcopal Church Community Dinner

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WHERE IS IT?

Each week *Agawam Advertiser News* will feature a photo of a local building, item, sign, place or landmark and ask readers to pick their brains to figure out where it is or even what it is. Check here each week to test your knowledge of the area where we live and work. The photo will be from either Agawam or Feeding Hills, but we'll always give you a hint or two.

The answer to this week's "Where is it?" will run in next week's edition along with the name of the first person to submit a correct answer and a new trivia photo for you to consider.

E-mail answers or future Where Is It? suggestions to editor Jennifer Wroblewski at jwroblewski@turley.com.



You may have seen this landmark steeple on your drive into town, but maybe never this close. Tell us, do you know where it is?

Turley Publications staff photo by Jennifer Wroblewski



**Last week's photo:
St. John the Evangelist Church.**

ACC meeting, Jan. 14

The Agawam Cultural Council (ACC) will meet Tuesday, Jan. 14, 2014, at 7 p.m. at the Agawam Public Library, located at 750 Cooper St. The meeting is open to the public.

If you have an interest in providing diverse cultural events for the town, a great opportunity exists with the Agawam Cultural Council (ACC). This all-volunteer organiza-

tion, appointed by the mayor and funded, in part, by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, is looking for new members. The ACC is charged with bringing engaging, entertaining, and educational events and opportunities in the arts, humanities, and sciences, to children and adults from Agawam and the surrounding communities.



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Patrick Administration announces results of three-year statewide energy efficiency plans

BOSTON — Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rick Sullivan announced recently that energy efficiency improvements by homeowners, businesses and government agencies across the Commonwealth from 2010-2012 resulted in significant electric, natural gas and greenhouse gas emission reductions.

In total, the Commonwealth's three-year statewide energy efficiency plans delivered 2,390 gigawatt hours, 49 million therms, and nearly 1.4 million metric tons of energy savings and greenhouse gas reductions. These reductions are equivalent to the annual electricity consumption of over 314,000 homes, the natural gas usage of 52,000 homes and, in greenhouse gas reduction terms, the equivalent of taking nearly 290,000 cars off the road. The plans were authorized by the Green Communities Act of 2008 (GCA) and approved by the Department of Public Utilities in January 2010.

In 2012, the final year of the efficiency plans, savings were equivalent to the annual electricity usage of nearly 129,000 homes, the annual natural gas usage of almost 24,000 homes and the annual reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from more than 123,000 cars.

"This year's report shows that more than 14,000 small businesses and 6,000 large businesses engaged in energy efficiency efforts in 2012, proving once again that efficiency is a win-win with economic and environmental benefits alike," said Sullivan. "By implementing these three-year plans, the Patrick Administration is reducing greenhouse

gas emissions, cutting energy use and creating jobs."

The three-year plan results are a significant factor in Massachusetts earning the number one ranking in the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy's (ACEEE) State Energy Efficiency Scorecard in 2011, 2012 and 2013. Each year ACEEE has credited the Commonwealth's "continued commitment to energy efficiency under its Green Communities Act of 2008" for the ranking.

Under the plans, Massachusetts committed to one of the most ambitious energy efficiency efforts in the nation – investing more in energy efficiency per capita than any other state. The 2013-2015 plans, underway now, are equally ambitious, projected to deliver nearly \$9 billion in benefits from an investment of \$2.2 billion. The electric savings are projected to reduce retail sales of electricity by 2.6 percent in 2015. These results are significant enough to be included in long term load forecasting by the Independent System Operator New England (ISO-NE), the organization responsible for determining New England's grid reliability.

"Massachusetts' energy efficiency programs are delivering nation leading economic and environmental benefits to residents and businesses throughout the Commonwealth" said Department of Energy Resources Commissioner Mark Sylvia. "I thank the EEAC members, the utilities and energy efficiency service providers that deliver the Mass Save programs for continuing to push the envelope in making energy efficiency our first fuel."

The results are outlined in a report of the Massachusetts Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC) filed with the Legislature, "Staying on Top; Energy Efficiency Continues to Deliver Benefits to Massachusetts Residents and Businesses." The EEAC is a stakeholder body established by the GCA to guide the development of comprehensive, integrated, statewide energy efficiency plans and monitor their implementation.

The Global Warming Solutions Act, signed by Governor Patrick in 2008, made the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2020 a requirement. The plan mandates a gradual GHG emissions reduction and a scheduling of emissions goals that is designed to spur innovation and promote research and development in the clean energy industry. The Commonwealth has set a 2020 reduction target of 25 percent below 1990 levels, and released the plan outlining a portfolio of policies and programs to meet the goal.

The Patrick Administration's clean energy initiatives have made Massachusetts a leader in energy efficiency, renewable energy and emissions reductions. This year, Governor Patrick set a new solar goal after reaching the previous goal of 250 megawatts four years early. The Commonwealth now aims to install 1,600 megawatts of solar capacity by 2020. The clean energy revolution is yielding economic benefits as well, with 11.8 percent job growth in the last year and 24 percent growth in the last two years; nearly 80,000 people are employed in the clean tech industry in Massachusetts.

Fundraiser to benefit AHS hockey

Crestview Country Club in Agawam will host a wine-tasting fundraiser Friday, Jan. 17 at 7 p.m., with all proceeds to benefit the Agawam Hockey School hockey team. Sponsored by Crestview and Berellis's Skate Shop, located at 726 Main St. in West Springfield, the night's events will include wine tasting, hors d'oeuvre and music.

For tickets, which are \$20 per person, call Chris Kierla at 575-5728 or Debbie Passerini at 537-8442.

Upcoming blood drives

AGAWAM - The American Red Cross has announced the following upcoming community blood drives.

Thursday, Jan. 2, noon to 6 p.m., Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St.; Wednesday, Jan. 22, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Agawam Corporate Center, 67 Hunt St.; Friday, Jan. 24, noon to 6 p.m., Agawam Fire Department, 800 Main St.; Thursday, Jan. 30, 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Agawam High School, 760 Cooper St.

All eligible and new blood donors are encouraged to give blood. Blood donors are needed every day to ensure an adequate blood supply for patients in need.

All presenting donors in January will receive a coupon for a free pound of Dunkin' Donuts coffee.

To make an appointment to donate blood, call (800) 733-2767 or log onto redcrossblood.org.

Restaurants to participate in Chefs for Jimmy

Four Agawam area restaurants will join more than 30 other culinary greats from Western New England at Chefs for Jimmy at Agawam's Chez Josef, Friday, Jan. 24 from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The evening's theme is "Cooking for the Gold."

Participating Agawam area restaurants include Chez Josef, Murphy's Pub, Nina's Cookies and Partners Restaurant & Catering.

The evening will also include an opportunity drawing and a silent auction. Presented by Winer Levsky Group of UBS Financial Services Inc., the event honors the memory of Neal Webber, a long-time supporter of the Jimmy Fund.

Tickets to the event are \$85 and are available only in advance by calling (800) 525-4669, or at jimmyfund.org/chefs-for-jimmy.

The Jimmy Fund solely supports Boston's Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, raising funds for adult and pediatric cancer care and research to improve the chances of survival for cancer patients around the world. This year celebrates the 60th anniversary of the Jimmy Fund and Boston Red Sox relationship. The Jimmy Fund is also the official charity of the Massachusetts Chiefs of Police Association, the Pan-Mass Challenge, and the Variety Children's Charity of New England. Since 1948, the generosity of millions of people has helped the Jimmy Fund save countless lives and reduce the burden of cancer for patients and families worldwide.

Department heads support procurement position

TOWN HALL, from page 1

that given the complexities of regulations and requirements mandated by the commonwealth, creating such a position would be "prudent."

"In my role as auditor, I see many instances where having a professional procurement officer would greatly benefit the city," she wrote. "With so many layers of requirements overlapping the many areas of purchasing, a single point person with this oversight responsibility would be of great value to the city."

Likewise, Deborah S. Dachos, director of the Office of Planning and Community Development, issued her "strong support" for the position in a

memo dated Dec. 11.

"Having been responsible for preparation of many requests for proposals (RFPs) and contracts, access to a professional who is knowledgeable in procurement law would be tremendously helpful," said Dachos.

Also writing in support were Laurel A. Placzek, treasurer/collector; Christopher Sparks, director of Parks and Recreation; and Christopher J. Golba, superintendent of the Department of Public Works.

The ordinance amending the code of the town of Agawam to create the position will appear on the agenda for the second Agawam City Council meeting of the new year, scheduled for Monday, Jan. 20. The Jan. 6 reorganization

meeting of the city council will not include any business.

Council to consider \$52,000 grant

Also on the agenda for the Jan. 20 city council meeting will be a resolution to accept a \$52,083 grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security State 911 Department.

Agawam Police Chief Robert D. Campbell – who is set to retire from the department Jan. 3 after nearly 40 years in law enforcement – authorized the grant application in November 2013.

The funds will be used to conduct training programs and ensure regulatory compliance, according to the resolution.

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Opinion

Happy New Year!

Tomorrow, Jan. 3, marks my third year as editor of Agawam Advertiser News, and I can't help but wonder, where has the time gone?

I can still recall my first trip to the Feeding Hills office and the feeling of apprehension I felt upon walking through the doors on that cold, gray day in early 2011. Little did I know what I would be walking into when I opted to vacate my position as a lowly reporter in Palmer to take the helm of the Advertiser in late 2010. As a reporter, I had the benefit of deferring to an editor when there

JOURNALING WITH JEN

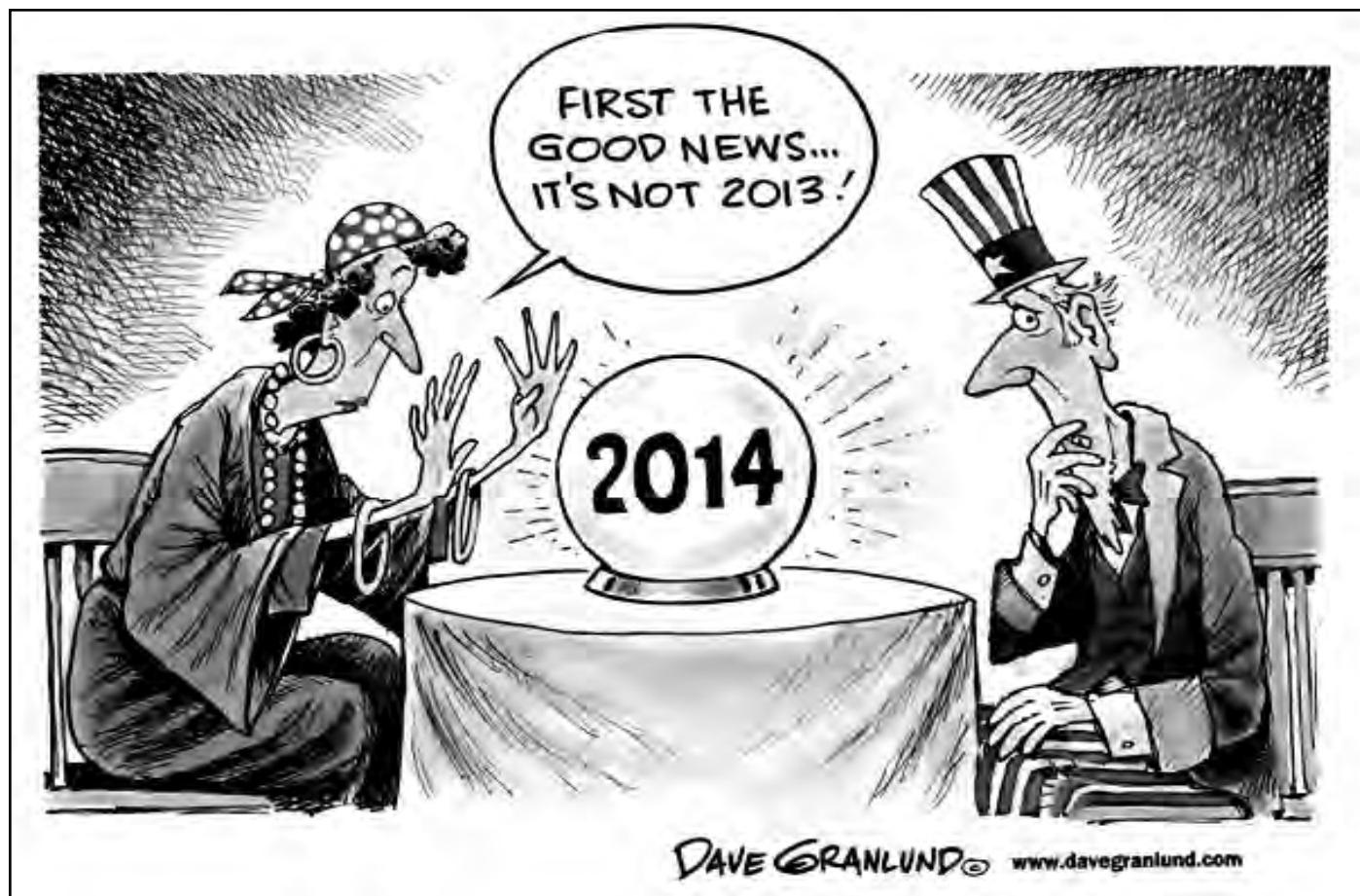
JENNIFER WROBLEWSKI
 EDITOR

was an issue with the paper, whatever it may be. As editor, though, I'm the one in charge of handling the issues, and unfortunately, I'm a people pleaser, which can make that aspect of this position difficult to say the least. I just want everybody to be happy!

Over the last three years, a lot has changed at this publication. Some of it I had a hand in – like the masthead color change from green to Agawam's signature brown and orange, and the addition of the public safety page – while others I had to do by necessity – such as reducing my already limited pool of freelance writers and being more selective of the events we're able to cover. Through it all, though, there remained one constant: my desire to produce the best quality publication possible for my readers.

It's true that I have the benefit of working alongside office manager Teri Machia, who has been with the paper for over two decades, and ad representative John Baskin, who handles anything and everything that has to do with advertising. But on the whole, it is I who spends every waking moment worrying about the Advertiser: What's considered newsworthy this week? Have I sufficiently balanced feature stories with government news? Will a particular submitted news item fit this week? Will the subject of my story like or loathe my writing style? How can I possibly keep up with the influx of email messages I receive unless I'm constantly checking messages from my phone or iPad? The litany of questions that goes through my mind is never-ending.

I may not be chained to my desk at all hours



of the day, and night, but I almost never let my mind wander too far from my job, even when I'm home and trying to "relax." I'm usually worrying about my next deadline cycle when I'm knee deep in the middle of the current cycle, and it's not unusual for me to wake in the middle of the night to fret about it; it never ends.

Sometimes, I'm amazed that I've already been here for three years. After all, I was a reporter for just five years prior to coming here (and an intern for a year before that), so I'm quickly approaching 10 years in the business. I may be young yet, but I'm pretty seasoned as far as breaking news goes. Unfortunately for me, Agawam tends to be a relatively quiet community with little to no breaking news to report. (Remember how Agawam was named 11th safest city in the United States last year? My news budget can attest to that fact.) Thankfully, my job today is more than simply "editor" of our print publication; I also utilize

the Advertiser's Facebook and Twitter pages fairly consistently to keep our online followers aware of what's going on around them at any given time of day. If there's a water main break, road closure or other event in town that will impact our residents, I try to keep on top of it as best as I can (thanks, usually, in part to department heads who are also savvy enough to utilize social media. It's a team effort, if you ask me!)

Anyone who has ever met me knows that I take pride in being the local news editor, but I am having difficulty keeping up the momentum. It's a stressful job for one person to handle, and after close to a decade, I fear I've just about reached my limit. Perhaps that's because I have more on my mind these days than just reporting? Balancing work with my growing family, for example.

I've been reflecting a lot on my role here lately, as I am quickly approaching the date when I will temporarily abdicate my throne.

Early this year – within days of our special "Where We Live" supplement being published – my husband and I will welcome our first child, and I'll take a much-deserved break from my position as full-time newshound for another important role: motherhood. On the one hand, I hate to relinquish control of the Advertiser to another, but on the other hand, I look forward to the chance to step away and regroup. My hope is that the paper continues to thrive in my absence, after which I can return with a fresh perspective to move it forward into 2014.

Although I'm still in denial that 2013 has come to a close. By the time I get used to the idea of the new year, we'll already be halfway through it, I'm sure! Still, a happy New Year to you, my loyal readers/subscribers, and thanks for spending the last three years on this journey with me.

AGAWAM
 Advertiser News

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Letters to the Editor

Looking for 'real' welfare reform

TO THE EDITOR:

At this very special holiday season, when our thoughts turn to family, friends and the bounty we have each received, it is important to remember those in the Commonwealth who struggle to make ends meet. They are not strangers. They are our neighbors and fellow residents and they desperately need the programs our Commonwealth can and does provide.

That's why I support real welfare reform which includes education, training and help with transportation and

I oppose provisions that only further stigmatize the poor and undermine access to the critical supports that serve as a lifeline for low-income families when they have nowhere else to turn.

In particular, the upfront job search before applicants can get any help, work requirements for thousands of disabled parents, and other restrictive provisions would impose onerous and unnecessary restrictions on those turning to TAFDC as their family's last resort. These provisions are counterproductive and will cost the commonwealth in the long run.

Friends basket raffle a success

TO THE EDITOR:

The Friends of the Agawam Public Library held another very successful Holiday Basket Raffle. This was our fifth year and we made over \$1,100!

We had 20 baskets to raffle thanks to the generosity of many people. I would like to thank the following people and companies for providing the baskets: Kathy Arnold, Bob and Pat Lloyd (from Budget Cabinets), Pat Bertone-Gross, Jean Clark, Judy Clin, Mayor Richard A. Cohen, Maria Gallo, The GFWC Agawam Junior Women's Club, Mary Ghidoni, Bruce and Pam

Jacobsen, The Main Street Deli, Pat McMahon, Diane Mercier, The Nasiatka Family, The Parker Family, and Nancy Spagnoli. They all did a wonderful job in coming up with exciting themes and attractive baskets.

The following people were the lucky winners of the 20 baskets and their goodies: Theresa Conklin, Trinity Connor, Pat Costella, Carol DiAugustino, Janice Defilipi, Paula Figella, Danielle Hogan, Darlene Kras, Jane Masella, Chris Natti, Donna Nasiatka, Aileen Semarie, Carol Smith, Corrie Sutter, Cynthia Sutter, Paul Tomasetti, Brenda Tyberski, Roni Wojcik, and

Barbara Yeager. Congratulations to you all.

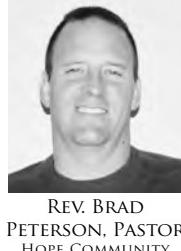
I would also like to thank the Agawam community for their enthusiastic support of the event and their help in making our fifth Annual Holiday Basket Raffle such a rousing success. With your help in the future we will make the sixth Annual Holiday Basket Raffle even more of a success.

Marcia E. Capuano
 President
 Friends of the
 Agawam Public Library

'Peace'

Personally, I really like football. One of my favorite parts of playing football was hitting people really hard. As much as I love football, I can't imagine what it's like to have a

F A I T H MATTERS



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lineman the size of Vince Wilfork have a hankering for wanting to hit you hard and squash you into the ground. When I played, big was 190 maybe 200 pounds, not the 300-plus that professionals weigh in at today. Can you imagine what would it be like to have an enemy as big as Vince Wilfork who had buddies who were just as big, all of which who wanted to squash you. I cringe when I see quarterbacks on the bottom of a pile of three linemen and wonder how they survive. Do quarterbacks lose sleep over this idea?

The whole idea of big, strong people not liking you makes me wonder what it would be like to have the greatest and most powerful force in the universe as your enemy. It's one thing to have a 300-pound man as an enemy and completely different to have an immeasurable force as an enemy. I imagine you would be losing sleep or at least have some serious anxiety if this were the case in your life.

The Bible says this is the case for those who don't have Jesus in their life. The Bible claims that we are objects of God's wrath when we don't know Jesus. Picture Vince Wilfork angrily charging at you, looking to drive you into the ground, multiply that many times over and that's God coming after you. I know, God is supposed to be loving, but He is not that way towards His enemies. Ever heard of Sodom and Gomorrah? Two cities that didn't want to listen to God and got on His bad side. God poured out His wrath on them and they were completely destroyed. Without Jesus in your life that's how God views you. How could

anyone be at peace when they are at war with God?

God did an amazing thing though, when He sent His son Jesus to die for our sins. It was amazing because Jesus died for His enemies. People who sin are people who do things against God's desires. If you are against God's desires you are against God and thus his enemy. But that's who Jesus died for, His enemies. The good news is that through Jesus' act of dying on the cross we can be at peace with God and no longer be His enemy. The even better news is that God allows this reality for anyone who will choose to believe in Him. Surrender to God and know peace. Go it your own way and you will have no peace. The choice is yours.

I hope that you have made peace with God and that you are no longer terrorized by God's wrath. Surrendering yourself to obey the teachings of Jesus is the only way you will ever know this peace. Don't waste another day being terrorized; surrender today.

2014 Turley Election Policy

This newspaper will print free self-submitted statements of candidacy combined together in a special issue four weeks out from a primary or general election. All candidates running in both contested and uncontested races are asked to submit their statements to the editor to include only biographical and campaign platform details 5-6 weeks before the election. Total word count for statements is limited to between 300-500 words maximum. Please include a photo. We will not publish any statements of candidacy after that special election coverage issue. To publish any other campaign publicity during the race, please contact our Advertising Representative at John Baskin at 786-7747 or jbaskin@

turley.com. We also do not allow personal attacks against other candidates or political parties in statements of candidacy, nor do we publish for free any information about key endorsements or political fundraisers.

Letters to the editor of no more than 250 words from supporters endorsing specific candidates or discussing campaign issues are limited to three total per candidate during the election season. They may be sent to aan@turley.com. No election letters will appear in the final edition before the election. We reserve the right to edit all statements of candidacy and letters to the editor to meet our guidelines.

As a hometown newspaper, state, county and federal candidates in con-

tested races who reside privately in our main coverage town(s) are offered one staff written feature story at the time of their official announcement appearing at least two months before the election date. However, these same hometown candidates aren't allowed to submit a separate candidate statement or listing in our special election edition. If a state or federal candidate living in our direct coverage town(s) is running in an uncontested race, no feature story interview will be granted. That information will be included in the general story that runs the week before the election. That story contains general information, including the names of all the candidates who will appear on the ballots and polling information.

Letters to the Editor must include a name, address, and daytime telephone number for author verification purposes. We do not publish anonymous letters. All letters are subject to editing for content and space. The deadline is Tuesday at 9:00 a.m. Please send letters to Agawam Advertiser News, Letters to the Editor, Attn: Teri Machia, 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030 or e-mail aan@turley.com.

Letter to the Editor

Legislators should retain spirit of holidays

TO THE EDITOR:

In this wonderful holiday season, I saw a cartoon of crowds rushing by a bell ringing Santa to get to the sales inside a store. It made me think of how rarely we think in a meaningful way about people in our society who are poor and desperately need the services and programs provided by our state and federal governments.

Far too many people choose to demonize the poor, believing they somehow "deserve" their fate. This seems to have been the perspective of the Massachusetts State Senate when they acted on a bill for welfare reform in June, passing a bill with onerous provisions that undermine critical supports that genuinely help people become self-sustaining.

According to the Massachusetts Budget and Policy Center (massbudget.org), "Even now, four years after the end of the recession, the poverty rate has not begun to decline. Since 2007, the statewide poverty rate has increased from 9.9 percent to 11.9 percent. Over one in every seven children across the state is currently living in poverty."

When the Massachusetts State House of Representatives takes up this bill in the new year, I hope my State Rep. Nicholas Boldyga and the House of Representatives will retain the spirit of the holidays, focus on the needs of their constituents, and come up with a bill for real welfare reform that includes education, training, and help with child care and transportation, and that my State Senator Donald Humeson and the state Senate will revise their thinking.

Corinne M. Wingard
Agawam



Turley Publications courtesy photo
Mayor Richard A. Cohen accepts a check last week from B.V. Oza from BAPS as fire Chief Alan Sirois, left, and police Lt. Eric Gillis look on.

For the good of the world

A Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha (BAPS) charity walk was held at the end of the summer to benefit Shriners Hospital, the Agawam Fire Department and the Agawam Police Department.

BAPS Charities is a registered nonprofit international charity organization committed to serving the world by caring for individuals, families and communities. Its universal work through a worldwide network of over 3,850 centers has received many national and international awards and affiliation with the United Nations.

NOTICE

ERRORS: Each advertiser is requested to check their advertisement the first time it appears. This paper will not be responsible for more than one corrected insertion, nor will be liable for any error in an advertisement to a greater extent than the cost of the space occupied by the item in the advertisement.

Hearing Test Set for Senior Citizens

Announcement-Free electronic hearing tests will be given from Monday-Friday 9am - 5pm at Avada Hearing Care Centers at 9 locations in Western Mass. Call to find the location nearest to you. The test has been arranged for anyone who suspects they are not hearing clearly. People who usually say they can hear but have trouble with understanding words are encouraged to come in for the tests. The testing includes newly-developed tests that determine your ability to hear speech in noisy environments. Everyone, especially those over 55 who have trouble hearing words clearly, should have a test annually. Demonstrations of the latest devices to improve clarity of speech will be available, on the spot, after the tests. You can HEAR for yourself if the latest methods of correction will help you understand words better. Call for your Appointment

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Baystate Health's Tolosky to end tenure

Springfield native Keroack named as successor

SPRINGFIELD — The Baystate Health Board of Trustees, led by Victor Woolridge, has announced a succession plan to transition the leadership of the region's premier health system.

Mark R. Tolosky, JD, FACHE, has decided to end his tenure as president and CEO of Baystate Health on July 1, 2014. Tolosky, who has served as president and CEO of Baystate Health since 2004, will be succeeded by Mark A. Keroack, MD, MPH.

For Baystate Health, the move follows an extended and rigorous period of succession planning to ensure a smooth transition for the organization, its patients and the community.

"It is an extraordinarily difficult decision to give up the privilege of serving so many people in our community, and touching so many lives," said Tolosky, whose decision culminates a longstanding personal and professional plan to transition his leadership of Baystate. "But I'm confident that now is the right time to move on to my next phase, as my Baystate colleagues continue to lead the way in transforming healthcare toward greater quality, accessibility and affordability."

The Baystate Health Board of Trustees unanimously approved the appointment of Dr. Keroack, a native of Springfield, to assume the role of president and chief executive officer of Baystate Health next year. As an interim step, on Jan. 1, 2014, Keroack will assume the additional title and authority of president and chief executive officer of Baystate Medical Center.

"It is a great honor to be selected as the next leader of this wonderful organization," said Keroack. "The new healthcare world will require an unprecedented level of connectedness between nurses, doctors, and allied health professionals; between specialty and primary care providers; between those who touch our patients and those who support them; between health plan and delivery system; and across all the communities and regions that we serve."

"I am excited to continue this great work, here in the town where I grew up, and across all of Western Massachusetts, to achieve a higher state of caring for the people we serve," Keroack added.

Keroack's father, Dr. Alvin Keroack, served the Sixteen Acres community of Springfield for many years as a general practitioner and occasionally brought his son Mark to what was then Springfield Hospital (now Baystate Medical Center) for rounds. Keroack's mother, Mary Phaneuf Keroack, was a nurse and a graduate of the Springfield Hospital School of Nursing, which became the Baystate School of Nursing.

Tolosky joined Baystate in 1992 as executive vice president of Baystate Health and chief executive officer of Baystate Medical Center. In 2004, he was promoted to president and CEO of Baystate Health. Under Tolosky, Baystate has been named one of the nation's top 15 integrated health systems



Turley Publications submitted photos

Mark R. Tolosky



Mark A. Keroack

and its hospitals, services and employees have received multiple prestigious healthcare quality honors.

"Mark's vision has been not only to transform the quality of our care, but our presence across the region as well," said Victor Woolridge, chair of the Baystate Health Board of Trustees. "In the last 15 years, we have reinvested over \$750 million into our communities, and dramatically improved the facilities and services available to patients across Western Massachusetts."

Baystate's facility investments during Tolosky's tenure include the \$299 million expansion of Baystate Medical Center in 2012, comprising the MassMutual Wing, the Davis Family Heart & Vascular Center, the Harold Grinspoon and Diane Troderman Adult Emergency Department and the Sadowsky Family Pediatric Emergency Department; recent renovations at Baystate Franklin Medical Center and Baystate Mary Lane Hospital; the construction of the Chestnut Surgery Center, 3300 Main St. outpatient center, the D'Amour Center for Cancer Care, the Baystate Orthopedic Surgery Center and the Baystate Children's Specialty Center, all in Springfield, where a formerly underused stretch of Main Street in the North End is now a burgeoning "Medical Mile"; as well as many other upgrades in facilities and clinical capabilities across the Baystate Health system and Western Massachusetts.

"During Mark's 22 years of leadership the organization has experienced unprecedented growth and change," said Woolridge. "It has been a deep and profound honor for me to serve as board chair alongside Mark, he has served with the highest level of integrity, passion and humility."

Tolosky also has guided Baystate Health to an unprecedented impact on the local economy, now employing about 10,000 people and, according to a recent study, contributing about \$2.6 billion in total economic output in Massachusetts, and supporting nearly 11,000 households.

After the July transition, Tolosky will assume the title of president emeritus and support his successor Keroack as needed. "I look forward to working closely with Dr. Keroack over the next six months to continue to advance relationships critical to the success of our organization and the health of our community, while transitioning the duties of CEO," said Tolosky.

Keroack returned home in 2011 as president of Baystate Medical Practices. In March 2013 he was promoted to executive vice president and chief operating officer for Baystate Health. Following a rigorous evaluation, the Board of Trustees concluded that Keroack's leadership skills, character and his deep and genuine commitment to patients, physicians and employees make him the ideal leader going forward.

Speaking on behalf of the Board of Trustees, Woolridge said, "I am confident that Dr. Keroack is the right leader to continue the tradition of health care excellence that has been provided to the people in our communities for the last 128 years. He is well poised to lead us into the future."

Prior to joining Baystate Health, Keroack served on the faculty of the University of Massachusetts for 12 years. During that time, he was a busy practitioner focusing on HIV and AIDS care and won five annual teaching awards. He subsequently provided executive leadership at UMass Memorial Health Care in Worcester as vice president for Medical Management and later as the first executive director of the 700-physician UMass Memorial Medical Group. He then joined University Health System Consortium (UHC) in Chicago where he served as senior vice president and chief medical officer. At UHC, a member-owned alliance of 112 academic medical centers, he oversaw programs for clinical and operational performance improvement, faculty group practice management, patient safety and accreditation. Keroack graduated from Amherst College, Harvard Medical School, and received his MPH from Boston University. He trained in internal medicine and infectious diseases at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston.

Tolosky served on the Board of the Massachusetts Hospital Association for seven years (including a term as chairman in 2002-2003) and was named Massachusetts "Health Care Executive of the Year" in 2004. In 2012, he received the Massachusetts Hospital Association's William L. Lane "Hospital Advocate" Award in recognition of his exceptional leadership. Tolosky also serves on several boards in the community, including the Western Massachusetts Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Springfield Symphony, and the Economic Development Council of Western Massachusetts.

Gaming Commission finds MGM suitable

MGM, from page 1

op the strong relationships necessary to create a world-class urban casino resort proposal that will anchor a renaissance for an important gateway city and the region around it," said MGM's vice president of global gaming development. "Our application demonstrates our ability to do so, as it delivers on the criteria set out by the MGC, as well as the transformative issues that make MGM Springfield the catalyst needed to rebuild an urban core."

The gaming commission recently pushed off the scheduled award of resort casino licenses (in Western Mass. and two other regions in the state) until the end of May.

In the announcement of its finding of suitability [the Phase I process] for Blue Tarp Redevelopment LLC, essentially a holding company with a 99 percent interest owned by MGM and the other one percent belonging to Springfield property owner Paul Picknelly, the commission also attached a number of conditions. These included the prompt reporting of changes in ownership as well as financial records of MGM properties and their subsidiaries in other countries, such as China; the prompt reporting of changes in governance structure within the company; and the prompt reporting of any contact with Terry Christensen, a former member of the MGM Board of Directors, who remained as a consultant even after New Jersey regulators demanded he resign after being convicted of federal wiretapping charges in 2006.

In an interesting twist, the commission also postponed a decision on the suitability of individuals involved with Rolling Hills Estates, including Vincent Barletta, Ronald Gillis and David Callahan, after discrepancies were allegedly discovered in factual information they provided to the commission. Rolling Hills Estates and MGM, of course, were heavily involved in an aborted attempt to build a casino in Brimfield in early 2012.

The commission's announcement came on the heels of a positive recommendation from Karen Wells, the director of the gaming commission's Investigations and Enforcement Bureau (IEB) in early December.

"Based upon the testimony provided to the commission at the hearing [Dec. 9] as well as the exhibits provided by the IEB, the commission, by unanimous vote, finds the applicant has satisfied its burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that it meets the standards for suitability," read the formal decision, released Dec. 23.

But by no means are MGM's designs on downtown Springfield universally endorsed. After the commission solicited comments from the public prior to the suitability hearing, a number of letters in opposition arrived, many of them from residents and officials in Longmeadow, on a variety of grounds.

Brendan O'Shea, a Longmeadow CPA, for example, pointed to billions in debt on the books of the company, which he argued would likely drive the company to make more and more risky decisions surrounding its operations in Macao, China and elsewhere. Longmeadow couple Ted and Michelle Steger agreed, questioning the relationships MGM has had with noted organized crime figures in China.

And Alex Grant, a Longmeadow selectman, argued that maps related to impacts in surrounding communities that had been submitted to the commission had not been wholly accurate.

"MGM's plans have been approved by the host community, Springfield, and may be approved by the gaming commission, on the strength of promises made by MGM," he wrote. "These are big promises, and most of the representations have to be taken on faith because they concern the future. As a result, the credibility of those promises takes on an unusual importance."

And while Springfield residents passed the host community agreement with MGM by 58 percent to 42 percent, the specter of a resort casino in the heart of Springfield is not desired by everyone in the city.

"This is not a fait accompli. Let us hope that the state gaming commission sees this in proper perspective, and takes into account the relatively small majority in favor of a misguided makeover affected a city of 153,000 people," wrote Frederick Sard of Springfield. "...I am not a gambling prude. I am not even against legalization. What I am against is turning a city like Springfield into a glitzy orgy of deluded dreams and cynical predation – all because city and state legislators cannot come up with real solutions to real problems."

Public hearings related to MGM's Phase II application are expected in Boston and in Springfield in the coming weeks.



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Families

Upcoming displays at Agawam Public Library

For the month of January, the Agawam Public Library will display a collection of Star Wars miniatures from the Game Wizards of the Coast owned by local artist Danny White and the work of wildlife artist Pat Morris.

White's miniatures are similar to Dungeons and Dragons, using multi-sided die and character cards with abilities and statistics to guide players through missions and

using a variety of maps, showing terrain and indoor scenes.

There also will be a contest for anyone ages 5-16. The object is to name all the Sith in the Johnson Memorial Case. From all of the correct answer sheets, one will be randomly selected to win and receive a Tie Crawler miniature and stat card with an estimated value of \$10 from the Force Unleashed set. In the event that no one correctly identifies

all the Sith, the entries with the most correct answers will be declared the winner. The contest will be open from Jan. 2-31.

White has worked as a freelance graphic artist for 20 years and has traveled the world viewing artwork in museums and galleries to help him understand his art. He has lived in Feeding Hills all of his life.

Morris, a native of Connecticut, began her art career in the 1970s, focusing mainly on

pet portraiture. By 1980, she was also painting wildlife, in particular the wolves that she had come to know in her association with a wolf ambassador program in Connecticut. She has continued through the years to enjoy the challenge of the depiction of animals, both wild and domestic, in her artwork. She works primarily in pastel but also enjoys acrylic and oil paints and drawing with pencil or silverpoint.

Annual 'Go Red' luncheon set for March 7

SPRINGFIELD — The American Heart Association is proud to announce it will host its fifth annual Western Massachusetts "Go Red For Women" luncheon on Friday, March 7. Over 300 women are expected to attend the luncheon taking place at the Log Cabin in Holyoke.

The benefit luncheon will kick off with registration at 9:30 a.m., followed by educational breakout sessions, inspiring survivor stories and educational keynote speaker, Theresa Lou Bowick, BSN, RN, is a popular radio host who uses the airwaves as a forum for community health. In 2009, Bowick lost 75 pounds and was featured on the cover of "Weight Watcher's Magazine" and "Family Circle Magazine," among others. Her weight loss journey was also featured on the "Tom Joyner Morning Show" and "The Dr. Oz Show." Bowick will share her journey and her unconventional approach to health education with the women of western Massachusetts.

Today, one in three females in the United States have some form of cardiovascular disease, but only 21 percent of women view heart disease as a health threat. And although cardiovascular disease claims the lives of more than 460,000 women nationally each year causing almost one death per minute – it is preventable through education and research. The Go Red For Women luncheon is designed to empower women with the information, education and awareness needed to help reduce their risk of heart disease and stroke.

Serving in the corporate and community leadership role of the Go Red Luncheon is Nancy Urbschat, principle owner of TSM Design. As event chair, Nancy is leading recruitment efforts of volunteers, survivors, and business leaders to help raise more than \$150,000. Funds raised will go toward research and education to reduce disability and death from cardiovascular disease and stroke in women. Heart disease and stroke account for 28.6 percent of all female deaths in Massachusetts and on average, nearly 22 women die from heart disease and stroke in Massachusetts every day.

The Go Red For Women movement challenges women to know their risk for heart disease and take action to reduce their personal risk. Furthermore, the movement plays a leading role in providing women with the tools they need to lead heart-healthy lives. Since its inception in 2004, close to 1.2 million women have signed up for the Go Red For Women Movement and statistics show that 96 percent of women registered achieved at least one health behavior change.

For more information on sponsorship or to purchase tickets, call Go Red For Women Luncheon Director Traci Heath at 413-262-3223 or go to www.wmassgored.heart.org. Find out more about the Go Red For Women movement and heart healthy living at www.goredforwomen.org or call 1-888-MYHEART.

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City Council meeting agenda

Roberta G. Doering School
68 Main St.
Monday, Jan. 6
7 p.m.

1. Roll Call
2. Moment of silence and the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Elections
4. TE-2014-1- Election of city council president

2. TE-2014-2- Election of city council vice president
4. Any other matter that may legally come before the city council
- Adjournment.

Girl Scouts seek directors for board

REGION — Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) is seeking innovative, dynamic and thoughtful leaders to serve on its board of directors. This is a two-year term commitment beginning in April 2014.

GSCWM Board of Directors is a vital, engaged group of volunteers who routinely open doors and make major decisions on behalf of the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts. Members possess the ability to see the

big picture, the willingness to promote the mission of Girl Scouts, and the capability to serve GSCWM with their time, talent, resources and enthusiasm. The Girl Scouts strive to build a diverse board, representing all girls that bring its vast knowledge and experience to the table to fulfill the organization's mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

A referral form can be found on

the website www.yourtimewellspent.org or you can contact GSCWM CEO Pattie Hallberg at phallberg@gscwm.org who can provide more information about the organization, the duties and responsibility of board members, board development committee members or other governance volunteers. Candidates need not have experience with the Girl Scouts to volunteer. Referrals for qualified prospects are welcome.

Boar's Head Festival to kick off Jan. 10

SPRINGFIELD — The annual Boar's Head Festival, a medieval celebration of the Epiphany, will be presented at Trinity United Methodist Church located at 361 Sumner Avenue in Springfield, on Friday, Jan. 10, Saturday, Jan.

11 and Sunday, Jan. 12.

Complete with period costumes, live animals and Christmas music, the Boar's Head Festival celebrates the birth of Jesus, the coming of the three kings and the triumph of light over

darkness in our world. Tickets are now on sale and cost \$25 for adults and \$15 for children ages 4-11.

For more information, call the Ticket Office at 733-4759.

Home sales down for November

REGION — November home sales in Hampden County were down over six percent from last year according to recent figures from the Realtor Association of the Pioneer Valley. While sales were down, the median price climbed nearly three percent.

According to their figures, 248 homes sold this past November, compared to 264 last year. The average sales price this year was \$189,120, an increase of nearly \$14,000 over last year. The median price rose to \$165,700, an increase of \$4,200.

Bridal Show to open Jan. 11

WEST SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Bridal Show will take place Saturday, Jan. 11 and Sunday, Jan. 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Better Living Center of the Eastern States Exposition.

There will be exhibits, live entertainment, fashion shows and over 150 companies available to help plan the perfect wedding. Admission is \$10. There is a discount option for those who register online.

For more information, logon to jenksproductions.com/springfieldbridalshow or call 860-563-2111.

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Seniors

Shingles seminar Jan. 13

A free seminar highlighting the importance of the shingles vaccine will be offered Monday, Jan. 13 at 12:15 p.m. in the Garden Room of the Agawam Senior Center. Questions and concerns about the vaccine will be discussed. The public is invited.

Notes from the Music Room

By Darcy Davis

The Memory Lane Chorus of the senior center will be on winter vacation during January and February. Practice sessions will start up in March at the usual time after the Tuesday afternoon movie.

New members are always welcome and we will be working on a second concert of

Irving Berlin songs in April or May. Last spring, we did Part I with his early songs from the years 1911 to 1939. This spring, we will include songs from the 1940s, 1950s and 1960s, including the shows "Annie Get Your Gun," "Call Me Madam" and "Mister President." This will still leave a number of great songs that he wrote for future consideration in our programs.

Agawam Senior Center lunch menu

Monday, Jan. 6: Swedish meatballs over egg noodles, corn, apples.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Lemon pepper chicken, scalloped potatoes, carrots, birthday

cake. Wednesday, Jan 8: Baconburger, lettuce and tomato, potato salad, mixed fruit.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Chicken chow mein, brown rice,

crunchy noodles, diced pears.

Friday, Jan. 10: Baked fish, rice pilaf, spinach, pudding.

Senior Center's weekly calendar of events

Monday, Jan. 6: Free hearing test Avada; 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:30 a.m., Painting Club, Line Dancing; 10 a.m., Fallon Insurance Meeting; 11:30 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 1 p.m., Bingo.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: S.H.I.N.E. (by appt.); 9 a.m., Exercise, Knitting, Sewing; 12:30 p.m., Ladies Billiards, Mah Jongg, Movie ("The Great Gatsby"); 1 p.m., Mexican Train Game; 4:30 p.m., Yoga; 6 p.m., Evening Line Dance; 6:30 p.m., Evening Sewing Class.

Wednesday, Jan. 8: 8 a.m., Weight Training; 8:15 a.m., Yoga; 9:45 a.m., Gentle Yoga; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Scrabble, 1:30 p.m., Golden Agers Chapter 1 Meeting.

Thursday, Jan. 9: 9 a.m., Exercise; 9:30 a.m., Quilting; 10 a.m., Line Dancing; 12:30 p.m., Bridge; 1 p.m., Pitch, Free Blood Pressure Check; 2 p.m., Melody Band Practice; 6:30 p.m., Pitch.

Friday, Jan. 10: 9:15 a.m., Oil Painting; 10 a.m., Tai Chi; 11:15 a.m., Yoga; Noon, Canasta; 1 p.m., Pitch, Cribbage.

Health

Improve your family's health and safety in 2014

Tips to inspire a healthy family lifestyle

SPRINGFIELD — "Every parent wants the best for their child while growing up. And every child deserves a good home, where they can grow and thrive in a healthy and loving environment," said Dr. Gary Levine,

vice chair, Pediatrics, Baystate Children's Hospital.

In the past, Baystate Children's Hospital has prepared a list of 'Top 10 New Year's Resolutions' to help parents make the impending New Year the safest and healthiest ever for their family.

"Realizing, however, that it is often a challenge for many of us to keep our personal

resolutions, especially if we set our expectations too high, this year we have taken the pressure off by simply creating 'tips' instead. There's tips to ponder to serve as an inspiration in creating a safe and healthy life not only for your child, but for you, too," said Levine.

Tips for 2014

Levine sought out the assistance of the pediatric staff at Baystate Children's Hospital and others to come up with a list of "Healthy and Safe Tips for 2014." Among their general tips are:

1. A Clean Home – One of the best things you can do for a child with asthma is to keep your home free of things like dust, mold, pet dander, dust mites and pest infestations such as cockroaches and rodents. Also, if someone in your family smokes (they shouldn't!) make sure they light up outdoors. – Dr. Matthew Sadof, attending physician, Baystate High Street Health Center/Pediatrics, part of Baystate Children's Hospital.

2. Clean Hands – Kids and dirty hands just seem to naturally go together. But, what child actually likes to wash his or her hands? Try to make hand washing a family affair and more of a fun activity, rather than a chore, by washing your hands along with your child. Hand washing is one of the best ways to guard against bacteria and viruses that cause infection, and is especially important during flu season. Teach your child when to wash his or hands – such as before meals, after going to the bathroom, or after blowing their nose – and how – with soap and water for about 20 seconds, or about as long as it takes for them to sing "Happy Birthday." – Dr. Barbara Stechenberg, Pediatric Infectious Diseases, Baystate Children's Hospital.

3. A Safe Home – Guns are not something to play with. If you want to keep your children safe from injury or death – some 1,500 kids die each year from gunshot wounds – the answer is simple. Remove all guns from your home. And, for those who must have a gun in the house, keep it locked up and unloaded with the key hidden where only you

can find it. Also, bullets should be locked in a separate box and in a different location. – Dr. Kevin Moriarty, chief, Pediatric Surgery, Baystate Children's Hospital.

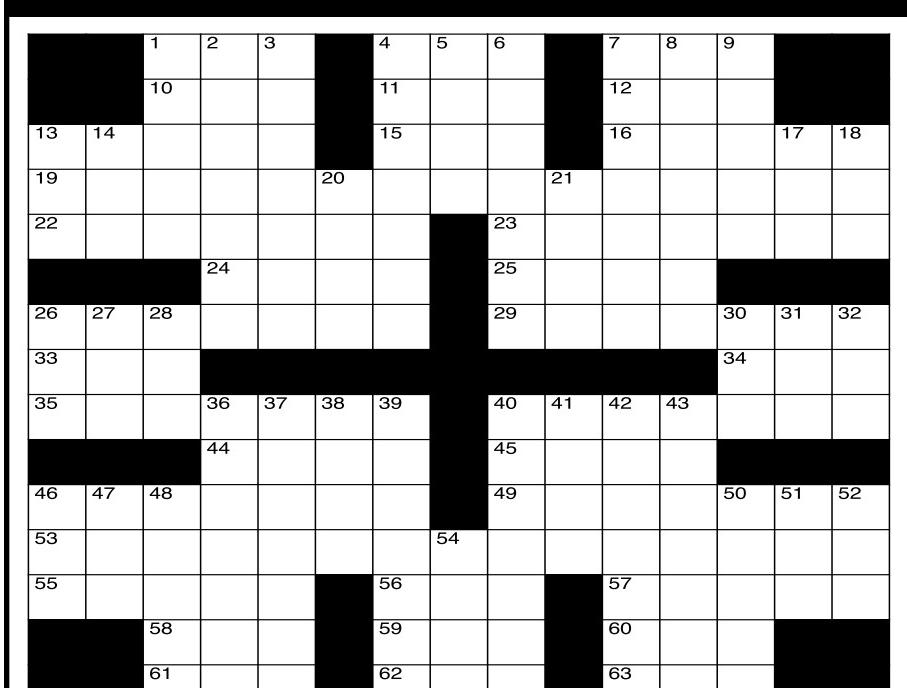
4. Teach Your Child To Eat Healthy – In a society today where obesity is an epidemic, teaching children about healthy lifestyles requires more than just educating them to make the right food choices, it's all about leading by example. If the environment you are placing your child in is an unhealthy one, then it is easy for them to make unhealthy choices. If they see a bunch of soda bottles all over the house, they're going to drink these high-sugar, high-calorie drinks. There is data which shows families who eat together are healthier and children who shared meals together at the dinner table tend to have a lower body mass index. So, skip the fast food restaurant and make a healthy home-cooked meal where you can spend quality time together as a family.

– Dr. Chrystal Wittcopp, director, Pediatric Weight Management Program, Baystate Children's Hospital.

5. Vaccinate, Vaccinate, Vaccinate – Plain and simply, childhood vaccinations are one of the best ways for parents to protect their children against vaccine-preventable diseases such as pertussis (whooping cough), measles, rubella, tetanus, flu and many other diseases. There is no scientific evidence that childhood vaccinations cause autism, a common reason why some parents choose not to have their children vaccinated. –

Dr. Shamsa Shafi, attending physician, Baystate High Street Health Center/Pediatrics, part of Baystate Children Hospital.

6. Exercise – Maintaining a healthy heart begins in childhood, not when we become adults and worry about warding off heart disease. The American Heart Association recommends that children and adolescents participate in at least 60 minutes of moderate to vigorous physical activity every day. - Dr. Yvonne Paris, chief, Pediatric Cardiology, Baystate Children's Hospital.



CLUES ACROSS

- Type of health plan
- Atmospheric haze
- A period of time
- Auricle
- Copycat
- Manpower
- Delicate fern genus
- Diego, Francisco or Anselmo
- Zanzibar copal
- Jackie's 2nd husband
- Calcified tooth tissue
- Conjoined twins
- Mythological birds
- This (Spanish)
- Lowest hereditary title
- Pre-transplant plot
- Fiddler crab genus

CLUES DOWN

- Professional legal organization
- Most thick
- Sleeve indicator of mourning
- Far East housemaid
- Hmong
- With three uneven sides
- Tempts
- Jewelry finding
- Showed intense anger
- Black tropical American cuckoo
- Prefix for wrong
- Sculpture with a head
- A single entity
- What part of (abbr.)
- Before
- Confined condition (abbr.)
- Hurrah
- Transport faster than sound
- Sorli's Tale hero
- Musical master
- Speech
- Swiftest
- Opaque gem
- Origins
- Proceed from a source
- Rechristened
- Liquorice flavored seed
- Small amount
- Mineral aggregate
- Prefix for wrong
- Point midway between E and SE
- A single instance
- French river
- Undeveloped blossom
- One pip domino
- Fled on foot
- Sheep bleat
- Due E
- Father
- Projecting part
- Improved by editing
- Made melodious sounds
- Treatment
- Agreeableness
- Bell sound
- Tennis contests
- Furnace vessels
- Sirius Satellite Radio (abbr.)
- Licensed accountant
- Crude potassium bitartrate
- Insert mark
- Election Stock Market (abbr.)
- Health resort
- So. Am. Indian people

SEE ANSWERS ON PAGE 17

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Public Safety

— FIRE / POLICE LOGS —

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 81 EMS calls and 22 fire and emergency response calls for the week of Dec. 17 to Dec. 23.

On Dec. 17 at 8:47 a.m., the department responded to Mill Street for a service call.

On Dec. 17 at 1:32 p.m., the department responded to Doloris Lane for carbon monoxide detector activation due to malfunction.

On Dec. 17 at 2:34 p.m., the department was dispatched to Campbell Drive and was canceled en route.

On Dec. 17 at 2:45 p.m., the department responded to Leonard Street to assist invalid.

On Dec. 17 at 3:32 p.m., the department was dispatched to Broz Terrace and was canceled en route.

On Dec. 17 at 5:38 p.m., the department responded to Suffield Street for a lockout.

On Dec. 17 at 6:11 p.m., the department responded to Main Street for overheated motor.

On Dec. 17 at 10:41 p.m., the department responded to Rowley Street for water evacuation.

On Dec. 17 at 11:53 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for carbon monoxide incident.

On Dec. 18 at 8:56 a.m., the department responded to Albert Street for a lockout.

On Dec. 18 at 9:14 a.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for person in distress.

On Dec. 18 at 11:17 a.m., the department responded to Cooley Street for a lockout.

On Dec. 19 at 10:20 p.m., the department responded to South Westfield Street for a lockout.

On Dec. 20 at 8:18 a.m., the department responded to Leonard Street for a service call.

On Dec. 20 at 11:44 a.m., the department responded to Chapin Street for arcing, shorted electrical equipment.

On Dec. 21 at 11:25 a.m., the department responded to Coyote Circle for building or structure weakened or collapsed.

On Dec. 21 at 9:10 p.m., the department responded to Wilson Street for unauthorized burning.

On Dec. 22 at 7:19 a.m., the department responded to North Westfield Street for a gasoline or other flammable liquid spill.

On Dec. 22 at 8:16 p.m., the department responded to King Street for a good intent call.

On Dec. 23 at 12:10 a.m., the department responded to Redwood Drive for person in distress.

On Dec. 23 at 1:33 p.m., the department responded to Brien Street for a service call.

On Dec. 23 at 5:17 p.m., the department responded to South Park Terrace for power line down.

The Agawam Fire Department responded to 60 EMS calls and 16 fire and emergency response calls for the week of Dec. 24 to Dec. 30.

On Dec. 24 at 9:15 a.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for a cooking fire, confined to container.

On Dec. 25 at 4:36 a.m., the department responded to Beekman Drive for a water problem.

On Dec. 25 at 10:39 a.m., the department responded to River Road for cover assignment, standby, moveup.

On Dec. 25 at 4:22 p.m., the department responded to Springfield Street for a lockout.

On Dec. 26 at 9:49 a.m., the department responded to Meadowbrook Manor for a cooking fire, confined to container.

On Dec. 26 at 1:09 p.m., the department responded to Route 57 east for a motor vehicle accident with no injuries.

On Dec. 26 at 1:17 p.m., the department responded to River Road for power line down.

On Dec. 27 at 10:34 a.m., the department responded to Cardinal Drive for unintentional transmission of alarm.

On Dec. 27 at 3:40 p.m., the department responded to Parkview Drive for a citizen complaint.

On Dec. 28 at 8:02 a.m., the department responded to Peros Drive for a service call.

On Dec. 28 at 4:29 p.m., the department responded to Cooper Street for public service assistance.

On Dec. 28 at 6:44 p.m., the department responded to Princeton Avenue for a service call.

On Dec. 29 at 6:41 a.m., the department responded to Simpson Circle for a service call.

On Dec. 30 at 4:35 a.m., the department responded to Alice Lane for smoke detector activation, no fire – unintentional.

On Dec. 30 at 3:39 p.m., the department responded to Russo Circle for a fire.

On Dec. 30 at 6:29 p.m., the department responded to Pheasant Hill Drive for a lockout.

The Agawam Police Department responded to 213 calls from Dec. 24 to Dec. 30. The department made five arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Wednesday, Dec. 25

Miguel Salas, 20, of 55 Betterway St., Springfield, was arrested on a charge of disorderly conduct.

Thursday, Dec. 26

Douglas M. Walters, 28, of 3 Centerwood Drive, Agawam, was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear.

Valerie Marsh, 16, of 31 Maple St., Apt. 2nd floor, Agawam, was arrested on charges of domestic assault and battery and vandalizing property – defacement of real or personal property.

Friday, Dec. 27

Marvin Kitt, 54, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 18, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of trespassing.

Saturday, Dec. 28

Alethea Dawn Flanary, 23, of 238 Maple St., Apt. C2, Agawam, was arrested on a charge of domestic assault and battery.

The Agawam Police Department responded to 472 calls from Dec. 17 to Dec. 23. The department made three arrests. Those arrested will appear at a future date in Westfield District Court and are innocent until proven guilty.

Friday, Dec. 20

Michael Patterson, 22, of 292 South Road, Hampden, was arrested on charges of possession of Class A drug; possession of Class B drug (two counts); and possession of open container of alcohol in motor vehicle.

Sunday, Dec. 22

Marvin Kitt, 54, of 23 Suffield St., Apt. 18, Agawam, was arrested on charges of trespassing and disorderly conduct.

Monday, Dec. 23

Nicholas A. Suchenicz, 28, of 154 Parkview Drive, Agawam, was arrested on a warrant and a default warrant for failure to appear.



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Turley Editorial Coverage Policies

CALENDAR

This section is intended to promote "free" events or ones that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization that benefits the entire community. Paid events that are not deemed fund-raisers or benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. Deadlines vary with each individual newspaper, look inside for your deadline. We usually print one week in advance of an event, and the listings should be brief, with only time, date, location, brief activity explanation, and contact info. The best thing to do is emulate a calendar listing you like that already appeared in the paper. Each editor directly manages and edits all of the calendar entries. Artwork or photos to compliment your calendar listings are always welcomed.

EDUCATION

We try to be inside our public schools on a weekly basis, both in terms of sports coverage and classroom features. Our education and sports sections run 52 weeks per year. We feel school coverage is probably the single largest reflection of the communities we serve, so this paper is committed to having a strong presence there. We devote more staff and space to these sections than any other editorial realm. We do print free courtesy stories, briefs and photos submitted by teachers, sports teams and students, as we cannot possibly be at every event. If you have a photo you want to run, please include a photo caption identifying those in the image from left to right and a description of the event. Please call or e-mail the editor directly with your school event coverage requests ~~at least three days in advance~~. If we can't attend, you are always encouraged to send in your own write-up and photos.

NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue's relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

BUSINESS

Turley Publications is liberal with regard to its business coverage policies, but we do have some standards folks need to understand. First, local businesses and merchants are just as much institutions in our towns as the library and schools. Without them, there are no towns.

We will feature coverage of local businesses that are new, have a major expansion, moving, closing, under new management or ownership, celebrating a milestone anniversary, or have been thrust into the news realm. Merchants can request that coverage through the editor, or for our existing advertising clients, through their ad representatives.

OPINION

We love letters to the editor and guest columns. It is what the soul of this newspaper is all about. However, we don't print what we can't prove. All letters and columns must be signed and confirmed by us prior to publication. If you are alleging things that we cannot prove, we will consider that a news tip and look into it. We always encourage readers to celebrate their communities versus just slamming them. We also pen a weekly "editorial." Some readers confuse editorials with being objective "news." Our unsigned editorials are opinions formed after doing the research, or com-

piled through our reporters' stories and other means. We then write opinions, which do take a definitive side on issues. Editorials are not meant to be balanced to both sides like our news stories should. They are intended to opine around the facts and take a position. That's the whole point of the "opinion" page.

PEOPLE/MILESTONE NEWS

As a free service for our readers, we will print all births, weddings, engagements, milestone anniversaries, major birthdays, military achievements, honors and awards. We have a "people news" form available for you to submit these listings. This material is provided to us by our readers and local institutions and we do not charge to print this content.

SPORTS

Our Sports Editor Dave Forbes and his reporters and photographers cover select varsity school games weekly as well as youth and adult sports leagues. Our team tries to be fair and spread the coverage around to all the teams, but as playoffs approach, teams making the playoffs take more precedence. We have tried hard this year to expand our coverage of youth sports, but we need coaches and players to send in their photos and write-ups. You can e-mail Dave Forbes at dforbes@turley.com.



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Theatre captures Christmas spirit

The Red Door Theatre captured the "Christmas Spirit" last month as 52 cast members played six sold-out performances. Costumed as elves, ragdolls, reindeer, penguins, bears and soldiers, the singers and dancers of all ages participated in the annual Christmas extravaganza that marked the end of the 2013 theatre season. For more info on what's next in the New Year at Red Door Theatre in Feeding Hills, visit www.reddoortheatre.com.

Turley Publications courtesy photos



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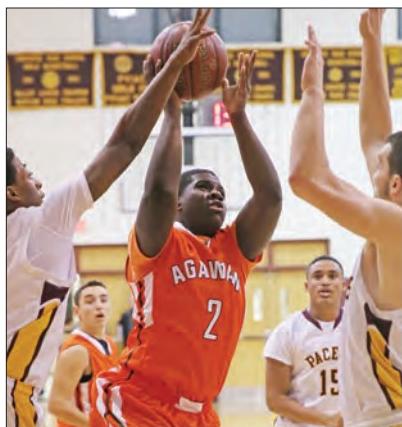


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SPORTS



Ennis helps lead rugby squad to finals

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – In high school, women's rugby is not a sport you often see played.

But for former Agawam High School lacrosse and field hockey player Shavon Ennis, it was a last-minute decision to consider playing the sport at Roger Williams

University.

Ennis was part of a Hawks team that went all the way to the regional championships, placing fourth. The year prior, the Hawks came in second in the regionals.

"I originally had no plans at all of playing even though they offered field hockey and lacrosse here," said Ennis. "I wanted to focus more on my studies."

Ennis said she met someone at

the orientation that told her she was thinking of joining the rugby team.

"It sparked my interest so I went to the first practice and fell in love with it," said Ennis.

The rugby team is a club sport at the college, meaning practices are limited to three times per week and games are only held on Saturday.

"It's an extremely intense game," said Ennis. "Some see it as violent,

but I love the aggressive aspect of the game and it was something I never could experience playing field hockey or lacrosse.

In her sophomore year, Roger Williams had an incredible season and went undefeated, similar to this year. They made it to the National Small College Rugby Organization Championship in Cherry Hill,

Please see ENNIS, page 14

Brownies stopped by Pacers

By Nate Rosenthal
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

CHICOPEE – The Agawam boys basketball team dropped its second game in a row with a 73-53 loss at Chicopee. The losses, both by twenty points or more, came after the Brownies won their first two games.

They fell behind early and were playing catchup the entire way. The Brownies stayed within range throughout the first half, but saw the game slip away in the third, when the Pacers opened it up from five to more than 20. After that they never really got back in the game.

The Brownies scored the first basket 35 seconds in on a turnaround by Matt Catjakis. It would be their only lead of the night. Almost a minute later, Chicopee got on the board with a three by Jake Midura and they led 3-2. Midura scored again after a Brownie miss and Catjakis got one back with just over two minutes played. With 4:07 to play in the quarter, TJ Lockwood made a pair of free throws to tie the game at 6-6. That would be last time Pacer would not have the lead. In fact, they got it back on their next possession on a three by Nick Gutierrez. Tony Slaughter scored on a wrap around and it was 11-6. Lockwood sandwiched three free throws around a basket by Marcus Walker to get the Brownies within four. With 15 seconds to go, Matt Baran hit a three and Chicopee led 16-9 after one quarter.

Gutierrez started the Pacer off 30 seconds in, but that was answered by a three from Joe Moccio. Talon Brown made a layup and the Chicopee lead was back down to four. Baran got three back but Moccio responded with a three and soon after two free throws. Chicopee still led, but it was 21-19 with

Please see BROWNIERS, page 14

Agawam takes top spot at Tomkiel



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Brennen Liebel has a match at 113 pounds.

Liebel defends crown at 113 lbs.

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam wrestling team far and away defeated a field of 15 other teams to capture their Phil Tomkiel Holiday Wrestling Tournament last Friday at Agawam High School.

The Brownies were powered by eight of their 14 wrestlers making the finals of the tournament. Four of those wrestlers captured championships in the tournament.

Agawam scored 218 points. Walter Panas High School had the next best total with 162 and Natick placed third with 149 points. Granby, Conn., had a good showing and placed sixth with 88 points, while Chicopee Comp placed seventh with 83 points. Also scoring was the

Hampden Charter School of Science with (eighth place) 83 points and Southwick with 73 points, good for ninth.

The first champion was Agawam's Brennen Liebel, who won the 113 pound class. He defeated Kevin Thomas from Natick High School. The match had very little scoring as Liebel managed just a couple of takedowns and Thomas as an escape throughout the six minutes.

Liebel had control for a lot of the match, but was not able to

score any nearfalls or pick up a pin. He captured the victory for the second straight year.

The Brownies were also very successful at three of the upper weight classes. Chris Ortega scored a big win by getting a first period pin against Jhayden Sheftall of Chicopee Comp.

He scored a pinfall with just 2 seconds remaining in the first period to capture the 170-pound crown.

Please see AGAWAM, page 13

Walles, Brownies shut down Tigers

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM – The Agawam hockey team really likes Division 3 competition and their new place in the Berry Division.

The Brownies are now 4-0 to start the regular season, and picked up their third and fourth wins of the season by beating Berry Division opponents South Hadley and Westfield during the past week.

Agawam matched up with South Hadley for the first time since defeating the Tigers in the Western Massachusetts Division 3A final

last season, and trounced the Tigers 6-0 on Saturday at Olympia Ice Center in West Springfield.

The Brownies tallied twice in each period and completely owned possession throughout the matchup.

Agawam would outshoot the Tigers by a huge 46-18 advantage.

The Brownies scored with 8:46 remaining in the first period when Brian Scoville had the puck on the far left and passed to the right side to an advancing Cam Rivest. Rivest would let a wrist shot loose on South Hadley goalie Devin Hoagland for the score and gave Agawam a 1-0 lead.

A few minutes later, Bobby Koziol fed Eric Kierkla. Kierkla would make a short wrist shot and scored for Agawam to make it 2-0. Meanwhile, Agawam continued to pepper the South Hadley goal and had a 24-5 shooting advantage in the first period.

In the second period, John Cowell scored as he followed a shot taken by Justin Lecuyer. Lecuyer would take a long slapshot. Cowell advanced up the left side and shot the rebound off Hoagland into the goal to make it 3-0.

The Brownies then got their

Please see SHUT DOWN, page 4



A melee for the puck ensues with Agawam's Billy Wysocki on the outside trying to move the puck away.

Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Lady Brownies overwhelm Palmer

By Tim Peterson
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

PALMER - Prior to last Friday night, the Agawam girls basketball team hadn't played a regular season game at Palmer High School in more than 10 years.

One of the first things that Agawam head coach Harold Cote noticed when he walked into the gymnasium were the three banners hanging on the wall. The banners represent the Lady Panthers 2008, 2010, and 2012 Western Mass. championship teams.

The Lady Panthers, who are in the rebuilding process this year, could've used a few of the players from their championship teams, as the Lady Brownies built a 21-point half-time lead and coasted to a 46-19 non-league victory.

"I was a little bit nervous before the start of the game because the Palmer girls basketball team has a great reputation," Cote said. "They've had a lot of success during the past couple of years and they know how to win. I'm very proud of the way my team played tonight."

Agawam, who hasn't won a Western Mass. title since Lou Conti was the head coach 20 years ago, evened their season at 2-2.

The Lady Brownies, who began the season by playing four road games, were scheduled to face West Springfield in their home opener on Monday night.

The leading scorer in last Friday's game was Agawam senior forward Danielle Stratton, who scored 17 points in the first three quarters. Stratton also scored a career-high 25 points in the Lady Brownies 60-49 victory against Amherst on Dec. 18.

"Danielle Stratton has really stepped up for us offensively so far this season," Cote said. "She's filling the shoes of Alycia Rackliffe, who was our leading scorer the past couple of years."

Junior center Jessica Lingenberg and sophomore forward Meghan D'Amours scored eight points apiece for the visitors.

Junior guard Katie Burke, sophomore forward Avery Pedro, and sophomore forward Savannah Cavanaugh all finished with four points for Lady Panthers, who saw their season record fall to 0-4.

Junior forward Bethany Trybus, who's

one of the Lady Panthers leading scorers, missed the game with an injury.

"I scouted Palmer's game at Belchertown last week and we were really concerned about her (Trybus)," Cote said. "We had a game plan to stop her and it did give us an advantage when she didn't play in this game tonight."

The Lady Panthers, who never held the lead against the Lady Brownies, committed a total 28 turnovers in the game.

"I thought we played very well defensively against them, especially in the first half," Cote said. "We worked very hard tonight."

Both teams had trouble scoring points in the opening quarter.

A made free throw by Stratton, who scored six of her points in the first 8:00, gave the Lady Brownies a 7-0 lead with 1:39 left in the quarter.

The Lady Panthers, who only made nine of their 32 field goal attempts, finally broke the ice with a fastbreak layup by Cavanaugh with 45 seconds remaining.

Agawam, who entered the second quarter with a 10-2 advantage, built a double-digit lead following an inside hoop by junior cen-

ter Rebecca Uschmann, who scored all five of her points during the first half.

Palmer's only other made field goal in the opening half was an offensive rebound putback Cavanaugh three minutes into the second quarter.

The Lady Brownies closed out the first half with a 13-0 run, which made the half-time score 25-4. D'Amours and Stratton scored seven of those points, while senior guard Margaret Frawley (six points) and Uschmann each made a 3-pointer.

Agawam had a commanding 32-4 lead, as they scored the first seven points of the third quarter.

Palmer's only points of the third quarter came on an inside hoop by Pedro and a Burke layup basket making the score 37-8 heading into the fourth quarter.

The Lady Panthers did outscore the Lady Brownies 11-9 during the final quarter.

The two teams will most likely face each other again in Agawam next year.

Tim Peterson is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.

Alumni hockey game slated for Jan. 11

SPRINGFIELD - The Agawam High School Hockey team will host its Annual Alumni Game Saturday, Jan. 11 from 2:10 to 4 p.m. at Smead Arena.

Cost per player is \$25 and includes ice time and t-shirt. All AHS hockey alumni are invited.

Any former AHS hockey player interested in joining is asked to RSVP to agawamhockey@hotmail.com by Wednesday, Jan. 1 and mail payment to AHS Hockey Booster Club, 11 Willowbrook Drive, Agawam, MA 01001.

For more information, contact Doris Ablianitis at 786-6052 or Kate Walles at 789-6924.



Turley Publications photo by Gregory A. Scibelli

Agawam's Brennen Liebel maintains control during his semifinal match. Liebel won the 113-pound crown at the Phil Tomkiel Holiday Tournament held last Friday.

AGAWAM, from page 12

Fred Karl-Morin, who has moved up a few weight classes this year, was a winner over Alex Kravchenko of Comp. He scored an 8-2 decision victory, and controlled much of his final round match.

The same was true at 220 pounds as Nick Blais picked up the championship victory over Chris Chiriguayo of Walter Panas High School with a 9-4 decision.

At 138 pounds, Anthony Caracciolo lost in the finals to Jonathan Pla of Walter Panas by major decision 14-5. Anthony Basile was defeated in the finals at 145 pounds with a 7-6 decision loss against Blake Cohen of Walter Panas.

Vincent Derosse was defeated at 182 pounds by Domenic Liquori from Westfield by pinfall. Nick Hope was upended in the heavyweight final by Austin Shrewsbury by a 10-2 decision.

At 120 pounds, HCCS's Omar Velez scored a win with a third period pinfall of Jacob Stathers from Southwick. Khalil Kasimov of HCCS lost in the final at 126 pounds to Mike Langan from Natick.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.

Brownies garner split over Christmas break

By Gregory A. Scibelli
Turley Publications
Sports Correspondent

AGAWAM - The Agawam boys basketball team has had a very busy December with six games just two weeks into the young season.

The Brownies wrapped two games around the Christmas holiday, beating Westfield on Friday night and losing to Sci-Tech on Monday night.

Last Friday night, Desrosiers scored 23 points in an overtime defeat of host Westfield 58-54 last Friday night.

In the victory, Desrosiers was excellent from beyond the arc as he sank five 3-pointers. He scored five of Agawam nine points in the overtime period. His five points equaled Westfield's output in the overtime.

Agawam was up near the end of the game, but Westfield was able to come back to tie the score 49-49 heading and force the overtime period.

The Brownies did trail early in the

game, which is rare for the Brownies so far this year. Westfield went on a 14-3 run early in the game before the Brownies woke up in the second quarter.

Agawam would score 21 points in the second quarter and trailed by just three heading into halftime. The Brownies would take the lead in the second half, and continued to take care of the ball before Westfield made their late comeback.

Talon Brown scored nine points and Wade Robidoux had eight for Agawam in the victory. Matt Catjakis had six points.

The Brownies did not have as much luck when they hosted Sci-Tech on Monday night. Agawam struggled on offense throughout the game as they dropped a 57-38 decision.

Sci-Tech was keyed by a very strong fourth quarter where they sank 23 points while their defense held Agawam to just eight points. The Cybercats used the offense to pull away from the Brownies for the double-digit win.

Desrosiers, who normally has been scoring 20 or more points in a game, was limited to 16 points for the evening. Robidoux and T.J. Lockwood were each limited to six points for Agawam. Brown also struggled on offense, scoring just four points.

Agawam also had few chances on the free throw line, sinking just four shots the entire game.

The Brownies now 3-3 for the regular season and are still trying to find some consistency winning games. They were scheduled to play at West Springfield on Monday night.

The Brownies will then take a week off and will play at Chicopee Comp on Tuesday, Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. They are not home until next Friday against South Hadley.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

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**SHUT DOWN, from page 12**

fourth goal with 4:48 remaining in the second period when Seamus Curran made a long wrist shot that went off the stick of Rivest and into the goal. Rivest was credited with the goal, however, as the puck redirected off his stick last.

Leading 4-0, South Hadley had an opportunity to get back into the game late in the second period when they received a two-man advantage during the final 2:00 of the period. Curran was boxed for slashing while Mike Pfau re-

ceived a penalty for a cross check.

Agawam was able to overcome the two-man deficit after 45 seconds and killed the second penalty shortly after to preserve the shutout.

Agawam got two goals from Scoville during the third period to complete the scoring. Lecuyer, Koziol, and Curran contributed two assists each.

Chris Walles made 18 saves in goal to pick up the shutout.

The Brownies defeated Westfield last Thursday night at Olympia when Scoville scored a goal with 3:24 left

A scrum takes place behind the goal. Agawam defeated South Hadley 6-0 on Saturday at Olympia Ice Center.

in the game. Rivest provided the assist and Walles picked up a shutout by saving just 17 shots.

Agawam's defense has been phenomenal so far in the young season. They still have more tests in front of them, including an upcoming matchup with Auburn on Saturday at 2 p.m. at Olympia Ice Center.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

ENNIS, from page 12

N.J., and came in second out of four, falling to Wayne State College from Nebraska. This past season, Ennis' junior year, the team had graduated 11 very strong, valuable seniors.

"My team and I were hardly confident that we would even win a single game," she said. "To our surprise, we went undefeated 7-0, boasting 279 points with only 15 points against us."

The Hawks then beat UMass Dartmouth 77-0 in the Colonial Coast Rugby Conference Championship, and advanced to the Regional Championship at Union College, N.Y. There, they beat the University of Rochester 22-7 and two weeks later went back in New Jersey for nationals again. Unfortunately, the season ended there as they lost to Smith Col-

lege from Northampton, in the first game, and fell to Millersville University from Pennsylvania, coming in fourth place.

"Although we were not as successful as we were in 2012, it felt great to have made it to the national championship again," Ennis said. "We fought until the very end and I am very proud of my team for our hard work and success this season. It's still awesome that we can still say we are nationally ranked."

Ennis said the Hawks still have a very young team with a lot of "rookies" who were still in the process of learning the game but still came out on top, starting and playing entire games. Among those "rookies" is Paige Dutko from East Longmeadow.

Gregory A. Scibelli is a sports correspondent for Turley Publications. He can be reached at gscibelli@turley.com.

BROWNIES, from page 12

nearly 5:00 to go in the half. It was another minute before the next score and that came on a three by Josh Malone to get Chicopee back to five. Malone made the first of two free throws and when the rebound went out to Midura, he stepped back and made the three. Suddenly the Pacers were up by nine points. It was still nine until Brown hit two free throws with a minute to go. Finally with 10 seconds left, Wade Robidoux made two from the line and it was 31-26 as the teams retired to the locker rooms.

The third quarter was controlled by the Pacers. Chevron Cote scored on a three-point play to get the lead back to eight. Lockwood and Michael Murdock traded hoops before Lockwood made a free throw. With 6:27 to go in the third it was 36-29. Chicopee scored the next five points, including three out of four from the line by Gutierrez. Moccio hit one of two, before Chicopee went on a run of seven points to make it. Walker's three at 1:48 made it 48-30. Catjakis scored on a putback, but then Chicopee scored the last six points of the quarter to take a lead of 54-32.

Lockwood scored on a couple of free throws to start the final frame, but that was answered by baskets from Reilly Miller and Murdock with 7:02 to play. The Brownies were not giving in and over the next 3:00 they made a mini-run of their own, thanks to 11 points by Brown. With 4:45 to go, they had cut the margin to 17 at 62-45. After that the Pacers took charge again. Midura's jumper got the lead back to 21 points and for the final 4:00 the teams went back and forth trading baskets.

Brown had 17 points on the night, with 13 coming in the fourth quarter. Lockwood was next with 13. Moccio had nine and Catjakis, six. Robidoux came next with five and it was two for Bryce Hatch. Stephen Comee scored one point.

Nate Rosenthal is a sports correspondent for Turley publications. He can be reached at dforbes@turley.com.



Turley Publications photo by David Henry sweetdogphotos.com
Agawam's Talon Brown (2) tries to get off a shot between two Chicopee defenders.

Community Newspapers Alive & Well!

In the Classroom

WNEU ranked among 'Best Colleges for Veterans'

SPRINGFIELD - Western New England University is one of the "Best Colleges for Veterans", according to new rankings released by *U.S. News and World Report*. Western New England is one of three colleges and universities in Massachusetts and 234 nationwide to earn this distinction.

"We are honored to help further the education of America's veterans, who have contributed so much to our country by their service," said Anthony S. Caprio of Wilbraham, university president. "I'm proud of the efforts of our faculty and staff to create a welcoming and supportive environment for a new generation of post-9/11 veterans. This commitment builds on the University's rich history of providing educational experiences for students with a wide variety of life experiences."

In a news release announcing the rankings, *U.S. News* says the list is designed to help veterans pursue a college education under the Post-9/11 GI Bill. "We developed these rankings to help them find a top-quality institution that also offers federal benefits that ease the burden of applying, paying for and completing a college degree," said Brian

Kelly, editor and chief content officer for *U.S. News*.

All of the Best Colleges for Veterans scored well in terms of graduation rate, faculty resources, reputation, and other markers of academic quality in the 2014 edition of the *U.S. News Best Colleges* guide. To qualify for the new rankings, the schools had to be certified for the GI Bill and participate in the Yellow Ribbon Program and Service members Opportunity Colleges Consortium.

More than 60 current Western New England University students receive some form of veterans' benefits, a number that includes dependents. The University waives application fees and provides a veteran student liaison. Those students enrolling under the government's Yellow Ribbon Program are able to attend Western New England tuition-free in most cases through a combination of government benefits and scholarship support from the University.

Prospective students with questions about degree offerings, transfer credits, and financial aid should contact the Western New England University Admissions Office at 413-782-1321 or learn@wne.edu.

HCC expands accelerated course offerings for spring

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College has expanded its offerings of accelerated courses for the spring 2014 semester.

Shorter in length than traditional classes, accelerated courses take only seven weeks to complete for a full semester's worth of college credits.

During Fall 2013 semester, for the first time, HCC offered two seven-week accelerated classes, Principles of Marketing and Principles of Management.

The following online, brick and click and traditional campus courses are being offered for the Spring 2014 semester:

- Business 101: Introduction to Business (3 credits)
- Business 115: Computer Applications (3 credits)

- Environmental Science 137: Environmental Geology (3 credits, plus 1-credit lab)
- Management 230: Principles of Management (3 credits)
- Marketing 227: Customer Service and Sales (3 credits)
- Marketing 240: Principles of Marketing (3 credits)
- Psychology 110: Introduction to Psychology (3 credits)
- Social Science 120: Conflict Resolution and Mediation (3 credits)
- Sustainability 110: Green Careers Exploration (2 credits)

For more information or to enroll, contact HCC Admissions at admissions@hcc.edu or (413) 552-2321 or go online at www.hcc.edu/accelerated.

Schools commit to delivering quality

HIGH-TECH, from page 1

mount importance so administrators, teachers and students could take advantage of new mobile devices, such as iPads, for classroom learning.

No more paper, pencil evaluations

Wireless technology is also transforming the way teachers are evaluated under the new educator evaluation process that began last year, said Sapelli. With new computer software, principals can conduct evaluations, collect data, and submit information using iPads instead of paper evaluation forms.

Sapelli said implementing the evaluation system – which requires all teachers and administrators who are licensed to teach to be evaluated on their impact on student learning – has been a "huge" undertaking. The district had to scrap a simple evaluation process and replace it with one that is more complex and comprehensive.

While administrators – including the superintendent – are evaluated annually, teachers are evaluated on a staggered two-year cycle. Last year, 50 percent of the teachers went through the first stage of the new evaluation process and are undergoing the remaining stage this school year. The remaining half has just begun the evaluation process.

"It's a new approach to evaluating teachers. It's an extensive process. There are a number of components, including training, technology, financing, and time," said Sapel-

li. Some principals, he said, will be evaluating more than 100 teachers this year.

Added Assistant Superintendent Allison LeClair, "This means you won't see many principals sitting in their offices. And because administrators and principals are evaluated using the same process, it has raised the bar for all of us."

Technology key to MCAS replacement

Agawam's wireless infrastructure is also an essential element of a new assessment system being developed to replace the 20-year old Massachusetts Comprehensive Assessment System (MCAS). The Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) will likely be phased in during the next several years, perhaps as soon as the 2014-2015 school year.

Massachusetts is one of 18 states that adopted this new K-12 student assessment system. The overall goal is to determine if students are on track to meet Common Core academic standards for English and math.

PARCC complements the Common Core curriculum introduced in Agawam schools in September. PARCC could help teachers measure student progress with the curriculum with high-quality student assessments. One of PARCC's goals is to assess how well students can use technology. Sapelli said the state's "ideal expectation" is that all students will take PARCC using electronic devices, such as iPads or Chromebooks.

The state selected Agawam as a pilot dis-

Agawam Schools' weekly lunch menu

AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL

The Agawam High School lunch menu is posted on the school's website.

AGAWAM JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Monday, Jan. 6: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, mashed potatoes, seasoned carrot coins, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Whole-wheat buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Jan. 10: Cheeseburger on a roll with lettuce and tomato, baked potato wedges, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

ROBERTA G. DOERING SCHOOL

Monday, Jan. 6: Baked chicken nuggets with dipping sauce, steamed white rice, seasoned green beans, fresh and chilled fruit.

Tuesday, Jan. 7: Baked mozzarella sticks with marinara sauce, mashed potatoes, seasoned carrot coins, fresh and chilled fruit.

AGAWAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Whole-wheat buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Jan. 10: Cheeseburger on a roll with lettuce and tomato, baked potato wedges, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Wednesday, Jan. 8: Whole-wheat buttered noodles with meat sauce on the side, French breadstick, mixed vegetables, fresh and chilled fruit.

Thursday, Jan. 9: Ultra-grain stuffed crust cheese pizza, salad with lite dressing, fresh and chilled fruit, cookie.

Friday, Jan. 10: Cheeseburger on a roll with lettuce and tomato, baked potato wedges, vegetable, fresh and chilled fruit.

Scholarship, fellowship applications deadline extended

The Horace Smith Fund, a private foundation that offers scholarships and fellowships, has extended the application deadline date for the Walter S. Barr Scholarship until Feb. 1 due to the low number of applications. Applications for the Walter S. Barr Fellowship are also due on Feb. 1. Last year, The Horace Smith Fund awarded \$276,000 to 27 area students.

The Walter S. Barr Fellowship awards are made annually to those wishing to enroll in full time graduate studies. In general, applicants must be residents of Hampden County. Awards are made to students pursuing a specific post-graduate degree. The award of \$12,000 is distributed in annual installments of \$4,000 for a maximum of three years. Awards will be made on the basis of all avail-

able information, including school records, recommendations and examination scores. Consideration will be given to both the merit and financial need of the applicant.

The Walter S. Barr Scholarship is available for graduates of Hampden County public and private high schools. Applicants may either be graduating seniors or in college. Scholarships awards of \$10,000 are distributed in annual installments of \$2,500 and renewable each year until graduation. Recipients are selected on a variety of criteria, including their test scores, class rank, extracurricular activities, and a personal written account of why the student feels deserving of financial assistance.

For more information, visit www.HoraceSmithFund.org or call (413) 739-4222.

"The state may have to come up with money to assist with the rollout of PARCC," said Sapelli. "They can't force districts to come up with money they don't have. I can't see this working without the state coming through with some money."

New assessment measures student growth

Meanwhile, Agawam is planning for another unfunded state mandate: an additional student assessment tied to teacher evaluations. All licensed educators will soon be required to identify and implement District-Determined Measures – DDMs. "Basically, this is a model to measure student growth from September to June," said Sapelli.

According to the Massachusetts Teachers Association (MTA), DDMs must be locally developed or identified assessments of growth. This could include portfolios, performance assessments, locally created pre- and post-tests, or textbook-based assessments. The assessments are also supposed to look at patterns, which refer to results on at least two different measures of student learning, growth and achievement.

Agawam teachers will fine-tune existing student assessments or develop new ones to help measure student growth from one point in time to another. "DDMs will be a better way to measure a teacher's effectiveness or success," said LeClair. "Students achieve at different expectation levels, so DDMs will measure the learning growth of students rather than strictly achievement on a test."

Obituaries & Church News

AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

745 Main St., Agawam

786-7111

Agawam1@verizon.net

www.agawamcongregational-church.com

Pastor Earl E. Eisenbach

SUNDAY SERVICES at 10 a.m.

Communion on the first Sunday of the month

Church school is in session and fellowship coffee hour follows the service. Pastor Earl and his wife Barbara are always available for prayer after the service.

"A place to call home ~ A people to call family"

AGAWAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

459 Mill St., Feeding Hills

413-786-4174

Pastor: Ken Blanchard

email agawamumc@gmail.com

agawamworship.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Worship 10 a.m.

Communion on the first and third Sunday of the month.

Coffee and fellowship hour immediately after worship. Handicap accessible at front entrance.

Worship At Country Estates Nursing Home:

2nd and 5th Thursdays each month at 11 a.m.

AUMC cooks and serves dinner for the Samaritan Inn homeless shelter on the second Saturday of the month.

BETHANY ASSEMBLY OF GOD

580 Main St., Agawam

(413) 789-2930

www.bethany-ag.org

Senior Pastor: Rev. Richard E. Adams

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.

Celebration of Praise: Sunday 6 p.m.

Wednesday Mid-Week Service (Family Night): 7 p.m.

Sunday Evening Contemporary Service: 6 p.m.

CHURCH OF REDEMPTION

50 Maple St., Agawam

(413) 304-2313

churchofredemptionministries.org

WORSHIP SERVICES

Summer Schedule

Sunday Service at 10 a.m.

Wednesday Bible Study at 7:30 p.m.

Sunday school for children and nursery for younger children

FAITH BIBLE CHURCH

370 Shoemaker Lane

Agawam

(413) 786-1681

www.jesussaves.7@comcast.com

Church Website:

www.faithbible-church.org

Pastor: Rick Donofrio

SERVICES

Sunday School for all ages 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting and Bible Study - 6:30 p.m.

FEEDING HILLS CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH UCC

"An Open and Affirming Congregation."

21 N. Westfield St., Feeding Hills

P.O. Box 264

(413) 786-5061

fhccoffee@verizon.net

Pastor: The Rev. Robert C. Donaldson

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Church School 9 a.m.

Worship Service 10 a.m.

Infant and child care provided.

Handicap accessible.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

760 Main St., Agawam

Agawambc@localnet.com

www.firstbaptistagawam.org

SUNDAY SERVICES

Worship 9:30 a.m.

Sunday School (grades K - 5) following Children's Message until 10:45

Youth Study time (grades 6+) following sermon until 10:45

Coffee & Conversation following worship every Sunday

HOPE COMMUNITY CHURCH

152 South Westfield St.

Feeding Hills

789-2026

SUNDAY SERVICES

Men's & Women's Bible Study Groups and Children's Sunday

School Worship Service at 10 a.m. Children's Church for age 3 to high school takes place after the service. Nursery available for younger children. A time for fellowship after the service.

MARANATHA BAPTIST CHURCH

522 Springfield St., Feeding Hills

Feeding Hills, MA

478-9484

David L. Short, Pastor

Sunday Family Bible Study Hour, 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Morning Service, 11 a.m.

Sunday Night Service, 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study & Prayer, 7 p.m.

SACRED HEART CHURCH

1103 Springfield St., Feeding Hills

(413) 786-8200

www.SacredHeartFeedingHills.org

Fr. Steven Amo

WEEKLY SERVICES

Lord's Day Masses: Saturday, 4 p.m.;

Sunday, 7:15 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11 a.m.

Confessions: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m.

Weekday Masses: Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m.

Special Devotions: Perpetual No-

vena to the Sacred Heart following the Friday 9 a.m. Mass

ST. DAVID'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills,

786-6133

saintdavids@comcast.net.

www.stdavidsagawam.org.

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday, 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Holy Eucharist

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH

823 Main St., Agawam

786-8105

info@stjohn evangelistchurch.org.

www.stjohagawam.org

SCHEDULE OF MASSES

Saturdays: 4 p.m. & 6 p.m. (Labor Day to Memorial Day)

Saturdays: 5 p.m. (Memorial Day to Labor Day)

Sundays: 8 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Reconciliation: Saturdays, 3:15 p.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Weekdays - Mon., Tues., Wed. & Fri., 8 a.m.

Thursday - Communion Service

DEATH NOTICES
Buoniconti, Patricia A.

Died Dec. 22, 2013

Funeral Dec. 30, 2013

Colonial Forastiere

Funeral Home

Agawam

McCarthy, Margaret A.

Died Dec. 23, 2013

Funeral Dec. 30, 2013

Sampson's Chapel of the Acres Funeral Home

Springfield

Warner, Irma J.

Died Dec. 23, 2013

Funeral Dec. 30, 2013

Colonial Forastiere

Funeral Home

Agawam

Catholic Women to host 'Movie Night'

The Catholic Women's Club of Agawam will host a "Movie Night," Monday, Jan. 13 beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the St. John's Parish Center. The movie is "The Holiday," starring Cameron Diaz, Kate Winslet, Jude Law, Jack Black and Eli Wallach. Refreshments will be served. This event is free and open to all women of the parish. There will not be a formal meeting. All are encouraged to bring a friend.

and adjudge therein. Hereof fail not, at your peril, or as otherwise said suit may be adjudged and orders entered in your absence. It appearing to this Court that no service of the Complaint has been made on the defendant, DBM Enterprises, Inc., a deputy sheriff having made a return on the summons that after a diligent search he can find no one upon whom he can lawfully make service, it is ORDERED that notice of this suit be given to DBM Enterprises, Inc. by publishing in the Agawam Advertiser, a newspaper published in Feeding Hills, MA once

a week for three successive weeks, the last publication to be at least 20 days before March 3, 2014. Dated at Springfield this 12th day of December, 2013. By the Court, (Mulcahy, J.) By:

Brian M. StOnge, Esquire

Clerk of the Court

Date: 12/12/13

Hon Michael E. Mulcahy

12/19/13, 12/26/13, 1/2/14

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and
Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103

(413)748-7758

Docket No. HD13P2453EA

Estate of:

Kelly Ann Hanshew Hoey

Date of Death: 12/23/2012

CITATION ON PETITION FOR
FORMAL
ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition has been filed

by: **Richard F. Hoey** of

Rome NY requesting that the

Court enter a formal Decree

and Order of testacy and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

And also requesting that:

Michael G. Giarrusso of Quincy MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve on the bond.

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court.

You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: 10:00 a.m. on 01/21/2014

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

The estate is being administered under formal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but recipients are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Anne M. Geoffrion**, First Justice of this Court.

Date: December 23, 2013

Out & About

OUR CALENDAR SECTION is intended to promote "free" events, or those that directly affect a volunteer-driven organization. Paid events that are not deemed benefits do not qualify. Non-charitable events that charge the public for profit are not allowed as we consider that paid advertising. The deadline to submit calendar items is Monday at noon. Send to the Agawam Advertiser News at aan@turley.com, fax to 786-8457, or mail to 23 Southwick St., Feeding Hills, MA 01030. We usually print at least one week prior to an event. The listings should be brief with only time, date, location, activity explanation and contact information.

Friday, Jan. 3

THE AGAWAM CULTURAL COUNCIL'S APPLAUSE SERIES resumes its 10th season at 7 p.m. when Chicago Style Rhythm and Blues band BluesHead brings its road show "Blues and Beyond" to the Agawam Senior Center, 954 Main St. This and all Applause Series events are free and open to the public.

Saturday, Jan. 4

A SCHOLA NOVA PROGRAM OF LESSONS AND CAROLS will be presented at the Church in the Acres in Springfield, at 7 p.m. Admission is free; donations accepted.

Sunday, Jan. 5

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS will host a "mini tour" at 1 p.m., led by Betty Romer, focusing on "Currier & Ives." The tour is free with museum admission and secure, free onsite parking is available.

A SCHOLA NOVA PROGRAM OF LESSONS AND CAROLS will be presented at Our Lady of the Valley Church in Easthampton, at 3 p.m. Admission is free; donations accepted.

Monday, Jan. 6

A COMMUNITY DINNER will be held at St. David's Episcopal Church, located at 699 Springfield St., Feeding Hills, at 6 p.m. Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and free for children under 5. A vegetarian meal will be available. Reservations required and may be made by calling 786-6133 or at www.stdavidsagawam.org. Reservations for take-out meals accepted.

Tuesday, Jan. 7

THE AGAWAM KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS will host a blood drive for the Mercy Medical Center Blood Bank from 2 to 6 p.m. at St. John's Church, 833 Main St., Agawam. For more information, call 786-3091.

THE AGAWAM SENIOR CENTER will host a free movie ("The Great Gatsby") at 12:30 p.m. The public is welcome.

Wednesday, Jan. 8

THE ELM-BELCHER MASONIC LODGE, 53 River St., Agawam offers an all-you-can-eat spaghetti supper at a cost of \$7 for adults, \$4 for children. The public is welcome.

Thursday, Jan. 9

THE SPRINGFIELD MUSEUMS AT THE QUADRANGLE will present "Cuba: Cars & Culture" featuring Amy S. Dane, avid traveler and museum docent, at 12:15 p.m. in the Museum of Fine Arts, at 21 Edwards St., Springfield. Admission is \$4 (\$2 for museum members). Parking is free. For information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 488.

THE AGAWAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH FAMILY PLAYGROUP, which takes place at the church at 745 Main St., Agawam, is open to children birth through age 5 with a parent or caregiver, meets weekly on Thursdays from 9:30 to 11 a.m. It includes crafts, stories, songs, free play and more. For more information, call 786-7111 or email jbrownacc@verizon.net.

UPCOMING AND ONGOING

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will host a community blood drive Wednesday, Jan. 22 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Agawam Corporate Center, 67 Hunt St. All presenting donors in January will receive a coupon for a free pound of Dunkin' Donuts coffee. To make an appointment, call (800) 733-2767 or log onto redcrossblood.org.

ADULT DROP-IN YOGA is offered at the Agawam Public Library Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 7 p.m. It is a beginner's class and open to adults 18 and over. Bring a yoga mat or blanket. No registration needed.

THE AMERICAN RED CROSS will host a community blood drive Thursday, Jan. 30 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Agawam High School, 760 Cooper St. All presenting donors in January will receive a coupon for a free pound of Dunkin' Donuts coffee. To make an appointment, call (800) 733-2767 or log onto redcrossblood.org.

A CARD, COIN AND MEMORABILIA SHOW will be held Sunday, Feb. 2 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Chicopee Boys and Girls Club, 580 Meadow St. Admission is \$1; kids under 10 are free. There will be over 40 tables, a door prize drawing every 30 minutes, and the club is handicap accessible. For more information, call (413) 593-6046.

THE TUESDAY MORNING MUSIC CONCERT scheduled for Feb. 4 at 10:30 a.m. at Trinity United Methodist Church in Springfield will feature Teri Lafleur, soprano; Lisa Woods, mezzo-soprano; and Miguel Campinho, piano. Free refreshments are provided after the performances. For more information, contact Yolanda Martin, 25 Valentine St., Springfield or John Karalekas, TMMC president, Trinity United Methodist Church, 361 Sumner Ave., Springfield 01138.

YOUR CAR, TRUCK OR CAMPER may be worth more as a donation than a trade-in. Call the Massachusetts Association for the Blind at (888) 613-2777 for more information. Towing is free. All donations are tax deductible.

Arts

Science museum continues 'Stars Over Springfield'

SPRINGFIELD — The Springfield Science Museum's large rooftop telescope will be open for public sky gazing Friday, Jan. 3 at 7:30 p.m. as part of the Stars Over Springfield observatory series. These programs are organized by the Museum and the Springfield Stars Club, and take place on the first Friday of each month from September through May. Each event features an in-

troductory talk on topics such as space exploration, seasonal sights of the night sky, current astronomical research, or upcoming events like eclipses or comet appearances.

Stars Over Springfield programs are best suited for families with children ages 8 and older, however younger children are also welcome. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$2 for children 17

and under. These programs are held rain or shine. If it is cloudy, a planetarium show will be presented in place of telescope viewing.

The Springfield Science Museum is located on the Quadrangle at 21 Edwards St. in downtown Springfield. Secure, free onsite parking is available. For more information, call (413) 263-6800, ext. 318.

Photography show entries now accepted

Entries are now being accepted for the Friends of the Agawam Public Library's fourth Open Juried Photography Show. To qualify for the early-bird registration fee of \$25 per entry, form(s) must be mailed by Saturday, Jan. 18. The entry fee after Jan. 18 is \$30 per entry.

The entry form can be downloaded from www.agawamlibrary.org/about/friends.htm.

Awards totaling \$1,340 will be distributed and include best in show (\$300) and first (\$120), second (\$80), and third (\$60) in each category, plus eight honorable mentions and a Photographers' Choice Award, for a total of 22 awards. Categories are creative, nature, photojournalism, and pictorial.

Multiple entries per category are allowed. All images must be original and made by the photographer. Fee applies to each entry.

Show dates are Feb. 3-28. The start of two-week drop off of photo(s) is Saturday, Jan. 18 from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. and then afterward during library hours.

Last day to enter and to drop off photo at the library is Saturday, Feb. 1 from 10 a.m. -1 p.m. Jurying and judging begins Saturday, Feb. 1 at 2 p.m. and is closed to the public.

Reception and awards is Friday, Feb. 21 from 7-9 p.m.

Tree removal starts Monday

AGAWAM — The Department of Public Works announced last month that Republic Services will again provide a courtesy collection of Christmas trees.

Residents should note that collection may not be on the same day that trash service is scheduled.

Routes 1 and 5 — Monday, Jan. 6; routes 2 and 6 — Tuesday, Jan. 7; routes

3 and 4 — Wednesday, Jan. 8; routes 7 and 8 — Thursday, Jan. 9.

Christmas trees 7 feet or larger must be cut in half and placed on the tree belt no earlier than 7 a.m. of the collection day listed above. Trees in plastic bags will not be collected.

It is not the responsibility of the hauler to dig out trees buried in the snow due to plowing or excessive snowfall.

The regular trash truck will not be collecting trees; a separate truck will be running the collection on the dates above.

For anyone wishing to dispose of a tree after the scheduled collection day, yard waste passes for Bondi's Island Landfill are available at the Department of Public Works Monday through Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

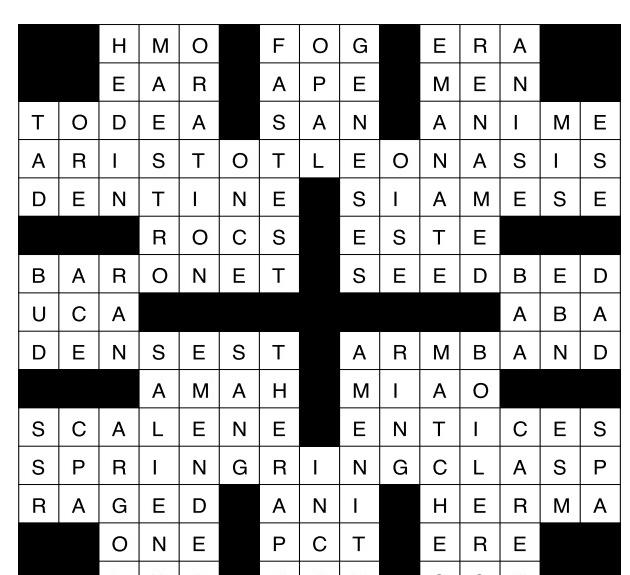
Running club meeting Jan. 14

REGION — Area women runners are invited to attend the Jan. 14 meeting of the Pioneer Valley Women's Running Club, 7 p.m., at Glenmeadow,

24 Tabor Crossing, Longmeadow. Mark Levesque, a self-defense and martial arts instructor, will be the featured speaker. For more information,

email Linda Edwards at ledwards@edwardsldm@charter.net.

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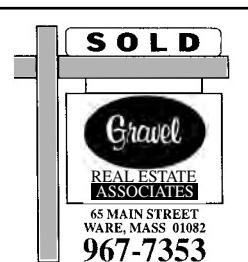
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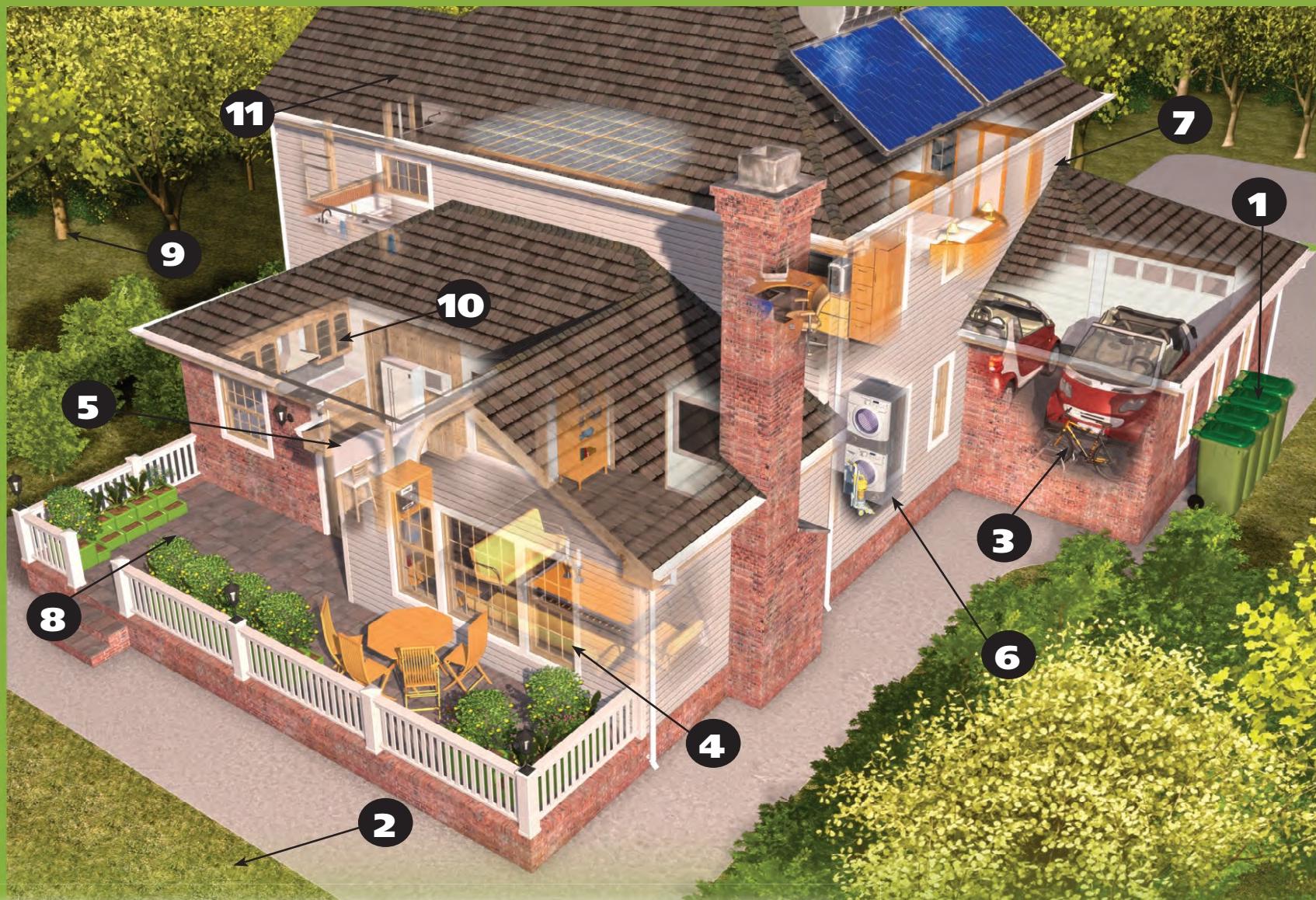


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